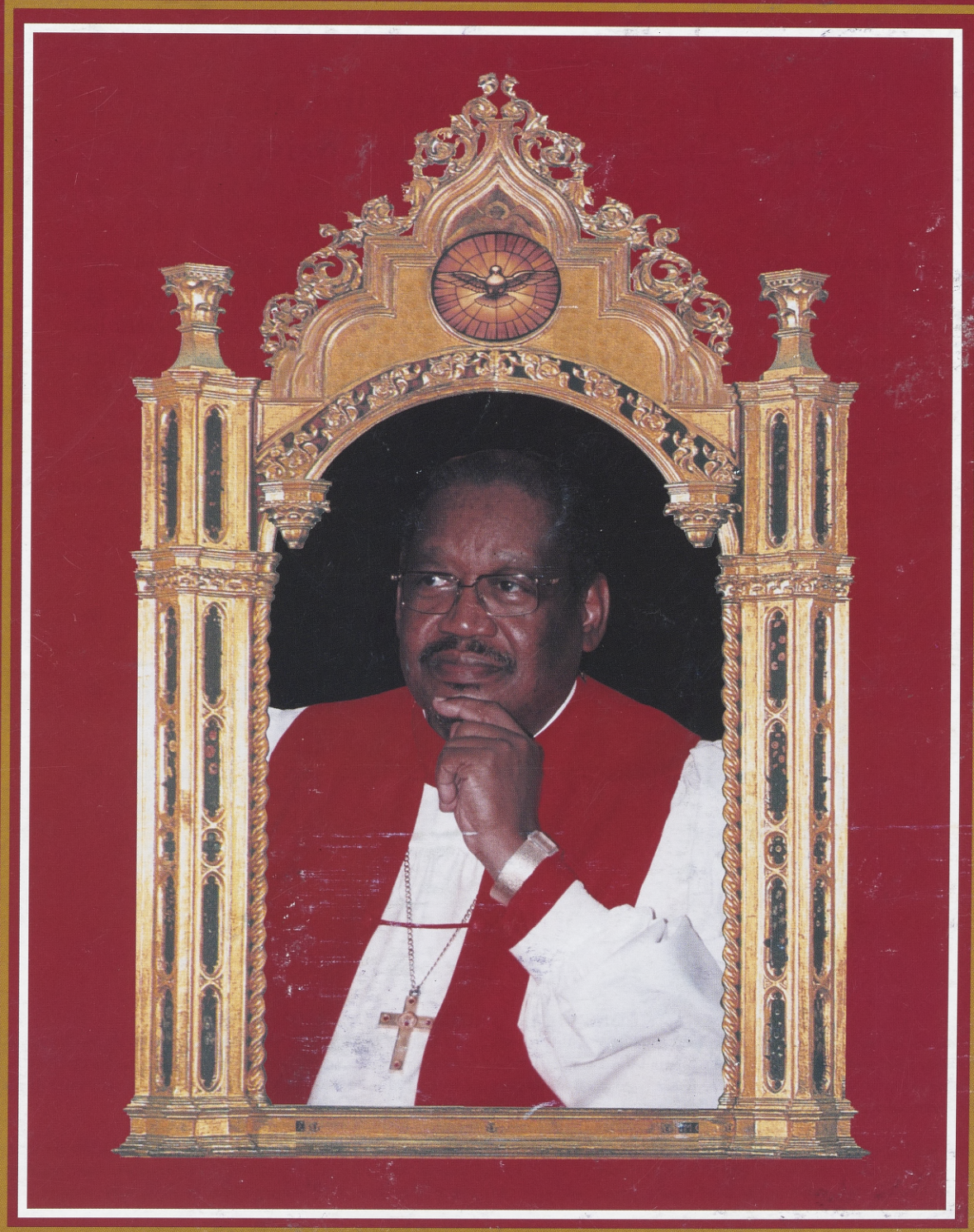


JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH 2005

The Whole Truth

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.



THE HOLY GHOST DESCENDS;
PRESIDING BISHOP G.E. PATTERSON RE-ELECTED,
AT THE 97TH INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION

The seal of The Church of God in Christ is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features a central cross with a crown on top, surrounded by a wreath. The text "SEAL OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST" is written in a circle around the central image. Below the cross, it says "ORGANIZED 1897" and "MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE".

The Official Magazine of The Church Of God In Christ Inc.

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

The Whole Truth shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the Church Of God In Christ Inc., the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth's* editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth's* archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.

January / February / March 2005

The Whole Truth

News Highlights

- A look at the 97th International Holy Convocation
- General Assembly Conducts Quadrennial Elections
- President Of Infant Survival Group talks about how SIDS is Impacting the African-American Community
- Bishop John H. Sheard elected new Chairman for Board of Bishops
- The COGIC VISA/Debit Card; Is it in your Wallet?
- Preview of the 55th International Women's Convention
- 2005 Leadership Conference
- The COGIC Woman
- Entrepreneur Profile
- Capturing the Essence of Jesus: The Christological Question



from the **editor**

Dear Subscribers,

I give God the honor, glory, and praise, for blessing me to present the January/February/March 2005 edition of *The Whole Truth*. Saints, the Lord poured out in a mighty way through His Holy Spirit at the 97th International Holy Convocation. It was indeed a joy to be included in the number, as God confirmed the vision and mandate that He has given to the Church Of God In Christ.

Congratulations to Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who was overwhelmingly re-elected as Chief Apostle of the ecclesiastical body and President of the civil corporation, by the more than 4,000 voting delegates attending the General Assembly. It is also my pleasure to give a *Whole Truth Salute* to the following members of the General Board in recognition of their re-elections to the Executive body of the Church Of God In Christ: Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr., First Assistant Presiding Bishop; Bishop J.N. Haynes, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop; Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Secretary; Bishop R.L.H. Winbush, Assistant Secretary; Bishop P.A. Brooks, Member; Bishop C.D. Owens, Member; Bishop S.L. Green, Member; Bishop L. Anderson, Member; Bishop G. McKinney, Member; and Bishop N. Wells, Member.

Finally, *The Whole Truth's* staff gives a warm welcome to Bishop Jerry Macklin, who was successful in his election bid to the Presidium. Bishop Macklin replaces the highly respected Bishop L.E. Willis, who asked for emeritus status after more than three decades of distinguished service to the Church Of God In Christ.

Once again, I was bestowed the esteemed honor of fellowship with thousands of saints in Memphis, Tennessee at the International Holy Convocation. During your visit to *The Whole Truth's* booth which was located in the main lobby of the Cook Convention Center, a number of you literally embraced me while expressing your approval of the direction that this historic publication has taken over the past two years.

It was very encouraging for me to learn that many of you are aware of the editorial staff's commitment to produce a first class quarterly news magazine in the form of *The Whole Truth*. In keeping with that commitment, all of the special subscription orders received concerning subscribers not receiving the publication for 2004 were processed before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Additionally, some of you were unaware of the fact that during my tenure as editor, the last two quarters of the year



have been combined for a special International Holy Convocation issue. This strategy was implemented to help me compensate for not having a paid staff nor an itemized budget to assist me in producing and carrying out my various duties with *The Whole Truth*.

Therefore, it is imperative that in addition to working tirelessly – I must constantly seek ways to be innovative and cost/time effective as well. Based on our national calendar of events, I should have a full-time staff handling assignments for two quarters simultaneously to produce an edition before the International Holy Convocation special is released in October. Currently, I don't have that manpower.

God has blessed me through a national networking initiative to assemble a group of volunteers who are extremely qualified. In explaining to them your desire to have four separate issues, we have resolved as a unit that God being our helper, this shall be done. The declaration given by Apostle Paul in **I Corinthians 16:57**, totally reflects our sentiments: *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*. Yes, it is because of the victory we have through our Lord, Jesus Christ, that – we will thrive in 2005.

Saints, I realize that *The Whole Truth* belongs to you. I am so grateful that starting with the 2002 International Holy Convocation edition, there has been an uninterrupted printing of *The Whole Truth* featuring the new format.

God has indeed been faithful; we look forward to producing four quality issues this year.
Yours In His Service,

Elder Calvin L. Burns

Editor-In-Chief, *The Whole Truth*

The Whole Truth

contents

From the Editor

1. General Assembly Conducts Quadrennial Elections
3. Infant Survival Advocacy Group asks for COGIC's Help in Combating SIDS
5. A Look at the 97th International Holy Convocation
13. COGIC Entrepreneur Snapshot: Elders Taking Ownership - Elder William Wilkerson
14. COGIC Entrepreneur Profile: Elders Taking Ownership - Elder Oliver T. Williams
16. Capturing the Essence of Jesus: The Christological Question
20. COGIC Youth Spotlight: Ashley Burke
21. The Lord's Day Worship Celebration
26. 2004 International Holy Convocation Women's Day Service
28. Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry
29. General Highlights and Observations from the 97th International Holy Convocation
34. Men's Conference at the 97th International Holy Convocation
37. Quadrennial Election Results
41. The COGIC VISA/DEBIT CARD; Is it in your Wallet?
45. 2005 Leadership Conference
49. Worship Overview: Leadership Conference
52. Plenary Sessions Overview: Leadership Conference
54. National Quadrennial Appointments
55. Bishop John H. Sheard is the new Chairman for the Board of Bishops
57. Preview: 55th Women's International Convention/Crusade
58. National Conventions; Calendar of Events
59. The COGIC Woman: Mrs. Francis H. Miller-Harris
61. Homegoing Celebrations
66. Happy 44th Birthday Dr. Frank Anthone White

The Whole Truth magazine (USPS No. 780340) is published quarterly for the annual subscription rate of \$20. Payable in advance in U.S. currency only. Published by the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., 2500 Lamar Avenue Memphis, TN 38114. Periodical Postage rate paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101. For additional information or to subscribe, call 901.744.0477 or write: *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101.



Publisher Bishop G.E. Patterson

Presiding Bishop, COGIC

CEO: Publishing House

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr.

Editor-In-Chief

Elder Calvin L. Burns

Production Advisors

Willie Durham

Randolph Bolden

Design/Layout/Art Direction

Willie D. Durham, Jr.

Features Editors

Department Editors/Writers

Dr. James B. Boyer

Evangelist Glenda

Williams-Goodson

Dr. David Daniels

Elder Quintin Roberson

Photography

Gil Michael

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr.

Elder Andrew Perpener

Marketing Consultant

Burns and Associates

Publishing Board Commission

Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush

Chairman

Bishop Samuel L. Green

Bishop LeRoy Anderson

General Board

Bishop G.E. Patterson

Presiding Bishop

Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr.

1st Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop J.N. Haynes

2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop W.W. Hamilton

Secretary

Bishop R.L.H. Winbush

Assistant Secretary

Bishop P.A. Brooks

Bishop C.D. Owens

Bishop S.L. Green

Bishop L. Anderson

Bishop G. McKinney

Bishop N. Wells

Bishop Jerry Macklin

Elder A.Z. Hall

General Secretary

Judge Enoch Perry

Chief Counsel

General Assembly Conducts Quadrennial Elections:

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson Leads the Way in Re-election of Presidium;
Bishop Jerry Macklin fills opening created by Bishop L.E. Willis' retirement

By Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee – Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the remaining ten incumbent General Board members were re-elected to the Executive Branch of our Church by more than 4,000 voting delegates to the General Assembly, our Legislative Branch, on November 16, 2004. Earlier in 2004, Bishop L.E. Willis retired from the General Board, and the delegates elected Bishop Jerry Macklin to fill the opening created by that retirement. Prior to the elections, Presiding Bishop Patterson announced that Bishop Willis had requested emeritus status.

In winning re-election to the General Board, Bishop G.E. Patterson received the most votes with 3,771. Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr. was the second highest vote getter with 3,483, and he was followed by Bishop J.N. Haynes, who received 3,309 votes. The General Board's newest member, Bishop J.W. Macklin, collected an impressive 2,932 votes. Former Presiding Bishop C.D. Owens won his re-election to the General Board with 1,420 votes. During his campaign address to the General Assembly, Bishop Owens stated that he was a candidate for the office of Presiding Bishop.

After Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., Chairman of the General Assembly, had finished reading the election results – Bishop Owens asked for and received permission to address the Assembly. In his remarks, Bishop Owens observed that Bishop G.E. Patterson clearly had received a mandate to lead the Church Of God In Christ. The eloquent spokesman said he no longer saw a need for the General Assembly to hold an additional election for the Office of Presiding Bishop. He then withdrew his candidacy for Presiding Bishop, and pledged his full support to Bishop

G.E. Patterson. The two distinguished leaders then embraced while many of the delegates continued to give a standing ovation in appreciation of, brethren dwelling together in unity.

Later, Presiding Bishop Patterson commended Bishop Owens for so graciously relinquishing his bid to vie for the highest office of leadership in COGIC. He also thanked the Former Presiding Bishop for his cogent pledge of support, noting: "It was four years forthcoming, but it did come."

**Presiding Bishop
G.E. Patterson and the
remaining ten incumbent
General Board members, were
re-elected to the Executive
Branch of our Church by more
than 4,000 voting delegates to
the General Assembly**

The General Assembly then approved a motion requested by the Presiding Bishop that called for Bishop Blake to continue in his role as First Assistant Presiding Bishop and Bishop Haynes as Second Assistant Presiding Bishop. Both bishops endorsed Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson in their campaign speeches before the assemblage.

In other election highlights, Elder A.Z. Hall was unopposed in his bid to be re-elected General Secretary, but that technicality did not prevent him from earning the honor of being the top vote getter of all the candidates with 3,874 votes. Bishop Samuel Lowe was re-elected National Treasurer with 2,997 votes, and Bishop Frank White easily won re-election to the Office of Financial Secretary with 3,543 votes. The Honorable Joseph Clemons was elected to the Judiciary Board with 3,104 votes, and he was joined by the Honorable Thomas Jackson, Jr., who received 2,639 votes, and the Honorable Talbert Swan with 2,182.

Bishop Charles Mason Ford, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, won his re-election by receiving 3,315 votes – which made him the top vote getter in that race. Bishop

Ford, the son of the late Second Presiding Bishop L.H. Ford, is continuing his family's rich legacy of service in the Church Of God In Christ. He is joined by a new member, who also exhibits the fruit of a prominent family tree of our Church. Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Sr. the son of Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., and grandson of First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., and great grandson of Founding Father Bishop C.H. Mason, won his election bid to the 15-member National Board of Trustees with 2,755 votes.

Following the announcement of the voting results by Assembly Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., the pledge of support to the Presiding Bishop by Bishop Owens, the acceptance by the Presiding Bishop, and the carrying of the motion that called for Bishop Blake and Bishop Haynes to serve as First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop respectively – the General Secretary certified the election. Secretary Hall then released the 2005 Calendar of Events for the International Church. This was followed by the motion to recess and the Chairman's closing directives.

In his closing remarks, the illustrious Chairman noted that Bishop Jerry Macklin had been elected to fill the opening on the General Board. He asked that Bishop Macklin come forward with remarks and join his fellow General Board members. Bishop Macklin thanked the delegates for the confidence

they had displayed by electing him to the General Board. He commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his exemplary leadership and vowed to work in concert with the rest of the General Board. The articulate former Chairman of AIM then requested that the Presiding Bishop would lay hands on him so that he might be consecrated for his new duties.

Indicative of a caring Chief Shepherd, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson asked the delegates to join both hands with a neighbor and pray that God's blessings would be upon them. While the members of the General Assembly prayed for each other, the Presiding Bishop and General Board lifted up Bishop Macklin in prayer. Just as it had occurred during the entire International Holy Convocation, there was a special move of God and delegates to the General Assembly throughout the Cook Convention Center began to rejoice and minister to each other as the Holy Ghost directed. Following the benediction, members of the Assembly could be heard expressing their gratitude for how smoothly the Quadrennial Elections had run.

As usual, Chairman Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr. displayed outstanding leadership in overseeing the two-day convening of the November 2004 Session of the General Assembly. From the initial Call to Order, the Candidates' Presentations, The Election of General Officers, to the Closing Remarks and Benediction

the November Agenda was expedited with saintly decorum. (See page 37 for the complete 2004 Quadrennial Election results).



The Presidium's top three cast their ballots



Members of the General Assembly mark their ballots

a whole truth news feature

Infant Survival Advocacy Group asks for COGIC's Help in Combating SIDS:

Promotes Placing Baby-on-Back Campaign as a Call for Action in the African-American Community

By Calvin L. Burns

According to a report from The American Guild for Infant Survival, Inc., the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is significantly higher among African Americans. Established in 1972 in Newport News, Virginia, The American Guild for Infant Survival, Inc. (The Guild) is a 501 © (3) non-profit agency designed to combat SIDS and other forms of infant mortality. Scott Hessek serves as the group's president.

SIDS or Crib Death is a leading fatal illness of American babies, usually between two weeks and one year of age, but it can occur earlier or later in a baby's life. This cycle of tragedy often begins after the baby is put down for a nap or night's sleep. When the parent or caregiver returns, the baby has died. More than 2,500 babies die of SIDS each year in the U.S.

"The incidence of SIDS in America's Black communities is still higher than that in the Caucasian, Asian or Latino communities," Hessek explained. "This is a tragedy that is, to a great extent, unnecessary. One of the key reasons why this occurs is that far too many Black families still place their babies to sleep on their stomachs rather than on their backs. I too come from a culture where I was taught that placing babies on their stomachs was the proper procedure. Then, I became part of a growing culture that was made aware of SIDS. Unfortunately, many African Americans remain unaware that their community is a higher risk for SIDS, and that by placing sleeping babies on their backs the SIDS death rate can be cut by up to 50 percent," he continued.

Hessek recently wrote a letter to Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson – in which he requested that the Church Of God In Christ would partner with his organization in a SIDS awareness campaign aimed at the Black community. He noted that members of The Guild are keenly aware of the spiritual impact that COGIC has in its role as the nation's largest Holiness-Pentecostal denomination.

"Perhaps as the leading moral compass for Black Americans, the Church Of God In Christ can help save these babies' lives by publicizing...the need for mothers of

all ages and all other persons working with infants to put the babies on their backs to sleep or for naps, and not let them sleep on their bellies," he exclaimed.

After reviewing the letter with his Executive Assistant, Evangelist Otonya Eskridge, the Presiding Bishop gave his permission for *The Whole Truth* to contact Mr. Hessek for the purpose of developing a news article. In talking with COGIC's official news journal of record, the dedicated advocate for infant survival stated his organization's data on SIDS comes from research conducted by the U.S. government.

"The Guild's statistics and other findings on SIDS are based on studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services," Hessek told *The Whole Truth*. "I must stress, however, The Guild does not have a political agenda. Our goal has remained the same since our founding: 'To strike out crib death and spare each new life.' Please tell your readers that our primary goal is to save the lives of these babies."

Hessek added that besides conducting and supporting research and education efforts, The Guild seeks to serve as a catalyst for change between and among existing institutions. In fact, it was in his mission of carrying out the ongoing effort of bringing about change by reducing the SIDS rate in the Black community—that spurred him to write Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

The Guild's president is convinced that the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ can play a vital role in alerting the Black Community to: Stop SIDS...Remember B-o-B, for Baby on Back, which is known as the Back-to-Sleep campaign. According to The Guild, SIDS is reduced anywhere from 25 percent to 50 percent for babies sleeping on their backs.

"The Federal government has been backing the Back-to-Sleep campaign since 1994, but it has not reached many in the African-American community," Hessek said. "We are urging parents never to put their baby on his or her tummy

ALWAYS KEEP BABIES SLEEPING ON THEIR BACKS...



NEVER--

**PUT BABY TO SLEEP ON HIS / HER TUMMY UNLESS
YOUR DOCTOR HAS SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED.**

***The incidence of SIDS drops
25% to 50% for babies
sleeping on their backs***



ALWAYS--

PUT BABY TO SLEEP ON HIS / HER BACK OR SIDE.

A public service of the
American Guild for Infant Survival, Inc.
301 Eastwood Circle • Virginia Beach, VA 23454
(757) 463.3845

unless specifically recommended by a doctor. Parents or the caregiver should always put the baby on his or her back or side."

The Guild's research concludes that no one is sure just why SIDS occurs. Most theories focus on a failure of the respiratory system as it relates to a sleeping mechanism that normally does not allow a person to go into a sleep too deeply. In babies victimized by SIDS, this respiratory related mechanism seems to fail, allowing them to sleep right into death. The study finds that by placing babies on their backs the potential for a failure of the sleeping mechanism is drastically reduced.

"It appears that the breathing passages are less likely to be blocked in anyway when the babies are placed on their backs," Hessek noted. "The Guild also has learned that SIDS is reduced when babies are comfortably cool. We urge parents or caregivers not to overheat the baby by swaddling, covering excessively, over dressing, or keeping the home exceptionally warm. Recent research indicates the incidence of SIDS increase when temperatures exceed

57 degrees Fahrenheit."

At this point in the interview, Hessek gave a personal message to parents or caregivers who are experiencing grief due to SIDS. "My infant daughter, Kathy, succumbed to SIDS in 1964," he recalled. "I've made it my life's mission to champion the cause of eradicating this tragedy in our communities. The most important thing for the parents or caregiver to focus on is, not to blame themselves nor delegate blame to anyone else, but draw strength from each other. The Guild stands ready to assist in grief counseling for those suffering this loss."

Finally, Hessek said members of The Guild would like to place thousands of their Sudden Infant Death Syndrome brochures and Stop SIDS, Remember Baby on Back flyers in Churches Of God In Christ throughout the nation.

For additional information you may contact, The American Guild for Infant Survival, Inc. 301 Eastwood Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, (757) 463-3845, afgis-inc@yahoo.com.

97th International Holy Convocation Powers Saints into a Higher Spiritual Level; Tens of Thousands embrace Theme: Let the Peace of God Continue

By Calvin L. Burns



Saints gather at Historic Mason Temple for the official opening of the 97th International Holy Convocation

Memphis, Tennessee – The peace of God did indeed prevail at the 97th International Holy Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ. More than 40,000 delegates journeyed to this Jewel City of the Mid-South, to attend the seven-day spiritual summit. Many of them departed the Church Of God In Christ's Jerusalem declaring that they had experienced "the greatest Holy Convocation ever!"

To ensure that the spiritual significance of the International Holy Convocation would be emphasized, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson implemented a Solemn Assembly, which is designed as a time of consecration. The Presiding Bishop also added a 7:45 a.m. *Morning Manna* session to the worship agenda. This uplifting service features prayer and teaching by the Presiding Bishop, and has quickly become one of the most anticipated events of the International Holy Convocation.

Starting in 1952, Superintendent Johnny Montgomery, pastor of Spain Street COGIC in New Orleans, Louisiana,

has attended the International Holy Convocation annually. In talking with *The Whole Truth*, the 81-year-old Elder gave his thoughts on the 97th convening of this most sacred event – from his role as a registered delegate to both the Convocation and the General Assembly.

"What a glorious Holy Convocation," observed Elder Montgomery, who serves as Supt. of District I Central of Louisiana Eastern First, where Bishop James Gordon is the Jurisdictional Prelate. "I liken it to when Apostle Paul (**I Corinthians: 12**) was caught up to the third heaven...and communed with God. We are truly blessed to have such an anointed leader as (Presiding) Bishop G.E. Patterson. Ever since he was chosen as our leader, each Holy Convocation has gotten better and better. Will I vote for him to be re-elected Presiding Bishop? Yes! A lot of progress has been made (during Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's tenure). He has taken the Church Of God In Christ to another level structurally and spiritually," the inspired pastor concluded. Supt. Montgomery echoed the sentiments for

thousands of delegates to the 97th International Holy Convocation. Saints by the scores could be heard throughout the city declaring how God was moving in a mighty way during the various services. Following the

following is a recap of the Solemn Assembly and Morning Manna services:

MONDAY - The Solemn Assembly Convenes

COGIC streamed into Historic Mason lay, Nov. 8, for the convening of the bly. At 9 a.m., the 30 hours of praying and with the *Call to Worship*. Led by Presiding Patterson, International Prayer Leader, nces Kelley, Prayer Team members, Supt. per III, and Prophet Bobby L. Dawson;



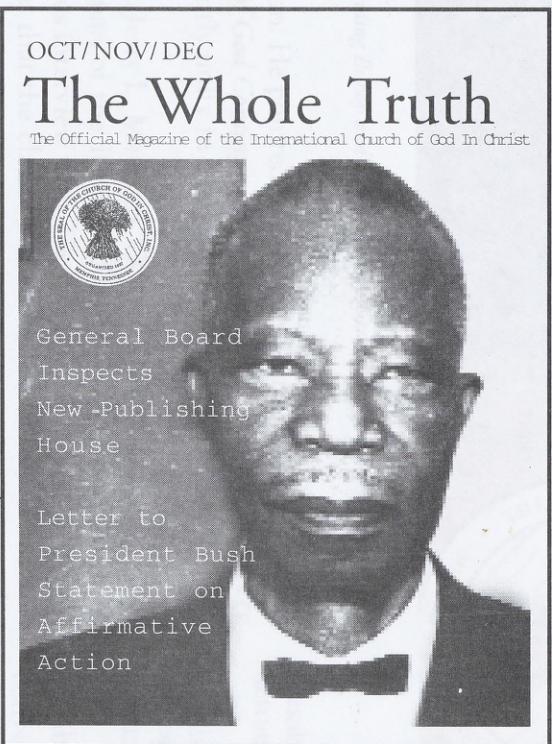
the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal focused on a time of consecration. remarks the Presiding Bishop made an Solemn Assembly with lighting the pilot Just as the lighting of the pilot makes it entire house to be warmed, so shall the ne Solemn Assembly ignite the presence of t, he observed. "This is where the pilot is Bishop G.E. Patterson said.

Official Opening of the 97th International Holy Convocation

The International Prayer Team continued to lift-up the Holy Convocation before the Lord. Previously, Evangelist Frances Kelley "pleaded the Blood of Christ" while asking

Bishop and General Board have for the Church, Bishop Maynard explained. The fact that the saints are becoming more aware of the Presiding Bishop's vision for the International Holy Convocation to be a time of spiritual edification was obvious from the opening session. The

Please Print!!



The Whole Truth Magazine Subscription Order Form

Name EMMA J. CLARK
90 Dr. Mattie McGlothen Library Museum
Address 5821 HIGHLAND AVENUE

City RICHMOND State CA Zip 94804-5013

Phone Number (510) 529-0369

Order Date 11/12/2005 Renewal Date 11/12/2006

Form Of Payment (\$20) ☐ Cash ☒ Check
☐ Traveler's Check

Complete and Mail Form To:

COGIC Publishing Board • The Whole Truth Magazine
P.O. Box 2017 • Memphis, TN 38101 • 901-744-0477

97th International Holy Convocation Powers Saints into a Higher Spiritual Level; Tens of Thousands embrace Theme: Let the Peace of God Continue

By Calvin L. Burns



Saints gather at Historic Mason Temple for the official

Memphis, Tennessee – The peace of God reigned as the Church Of God In Christ gathered for the 97th International Holy Convocation. More than 10,000 saints journeyed to this Jewel City of the Midwest for the seven-day spiritual summit. Many of the delegates to the Church Of God In Christ's Jerusalem declaration had experienced "the greatest Holy Convocation in the history of the Church."

To ensure that the spiritual significance of the 97th International Holy Convocation would be fully realized, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson implemented a special Assembly, which is designed as a time of consecration. Presiding Bishop also added a 7:45 a.m. session to the worship agenda. This uplifting service features prayer and teaching by the Presiding Bishop, and has quickly become one of the most anticipated events of the 97th International Holy Convocation.

Starting in 1952, Superintendent Johnny Montgomery, pastor of Spain Street COGIC in New Orleans, Louisiana,

level structurally and spiritually," the inspired pastor concluded. Supt. Montgomery echoed the sentiments for

thousands of delegates to the 97th International Holy Convocation. Saints by the scores could be heard throughout the city declaring how God was moving in a mighty way during the various services. Following the Convocation, delegates to the General Assembly overwhelming returned Bishop G.E. Patterson to the Office of Presiding Bishop.

Although 2004 was an election year, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson requested that the saints come to Memphis focused on the spiritual significance of the

following is a recap of the Solemn Assembly and Morning Manna services:

MONDAY – The Solemn Assembly Convenes

The Saints of COGIC streamed into Historic Mason Temple, Monday, Nov. 8, for the convening of the Solemn Assembly. At 9 a.m., the 30 hours of praying and fasting began with the *Call to Worship*. Led by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, International Prayer Leader, Evangelist Frances Kelley, Prayer Team members, Supt. Amos F. Kemper III, and Prophet Bobby L. Dawson;



The Presiding Bishop and members of the General Board give God the glory

occasion. He pointed to the Convocation's theme, *Let the Peace of God Continue (Ephesians 4:3)* as the rallying cry for saintly unity in every segment of the meeting.

Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, COGIC's Chief of Staff, is also Chairman of the International Holy Convocation. In a previous interview with *The Whole Truth*, Bishop Maynard advised that the classes offered by the Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. Memorial Institute are aimed at enlightening the saints on how to apply the Convocation's theme to their daily lives. The curriculum is also designed to give the membership insight on the vision that the Presiding Bishop and General Board have for the Church, Bishop Maynard explained. The fact that the saints are becoming more aware of the Presiding Bishop's vision for the International Holy Convocation to be a time of spiritual edification was obvious from the opening session. The

members of the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination focused on a time of consecration.

In his opening remarks the Presiding Bishop made an analogy of the Solemn Assembly with lighting the pilot in a gas furnace. Just as the lighting of the pilot makes it

possible for the entire house to be warmed, so shall the convening of the Solemn Assembly ignite the presence of the Holy Ghost, he observed. "This is where the pilot is lit," Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said.

TUESDAY – Official Opening of the 97th International Holy Convocation

The International Prayer Team continued to lift-up the Holy Convocation before the Lord. Previously, Evangelist Frances Kelley "pleaded the Blood of Christ" while asking

God to give the saints "the mind of Christ." Supt. Amos F. Kemper III declared that "the Peace of God" would indeed prevail, while Prophet Bobby L. Dawson shared a prophetic word that, "this will be the most unusual Holy Convocation ever."

Members of the General Board and other COGIC officials reinforced those declarations while giving greetings to the assemblage. Following this time of intercessory prayer and official salutations, the Presiding Bishop pronounced that the 97th International Holy Convocation was officially open.

A highlight of the official opening occurred when Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson started to sing a series of COGIC hymns from yesteryear. Songs like, *My Record Will Be There, and I am Leaving All to Follow Jesus*. He noted that many COGIC congregations are abandoning a rich legacy of our denomination by not including these hymns in their worship.

The Presiding Bishop advised that he had recorded a collection of COGIC hymns and congregational songs with his church choir, Temple of Deliverance. He added that this was his way of preserving the musical heritage of our Church. The recording is entitled, *Singing the Old Time Way*, and it is a production of Podium Records. This uplifting collection can be purchased at the Temple of Deliverance bookstore. An audio cassette costs \$12, and a CD, DVD or VHS can be obtained for a very affordable \$20.

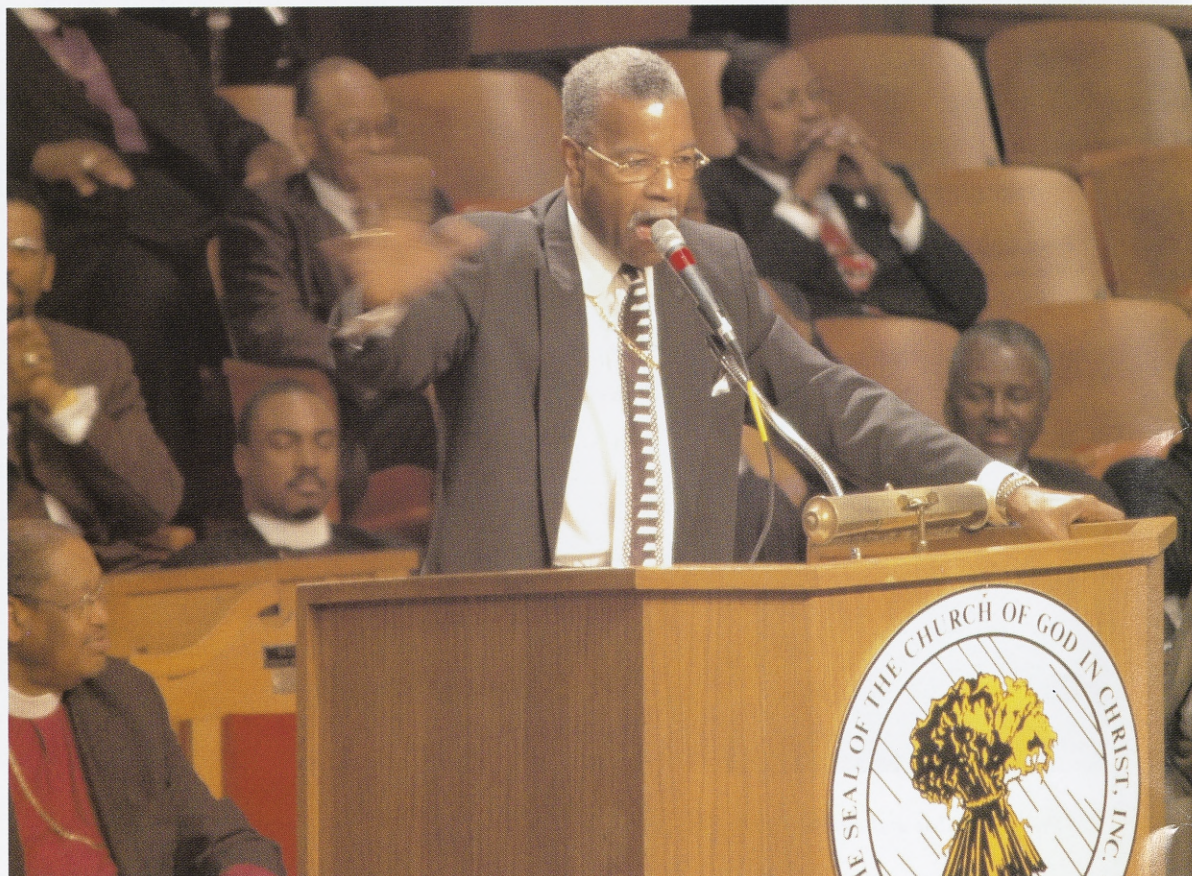
Many of the saints were clearly inspired from the singing of the COGIC songs of old. In fact, some of the General Board members and other officials had an old COGIC standard to sing before rendering their greetings.

WEDNESDAY – Morning Manna Begins

There was a prevailing mood of joyous anticipation as the saints filed into the main assembly hall of the Cook Convention Center. This was their first opportunity of the

97th International Holy Convocation to hear a sermon from Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who ranks as one of the most highly respected ministers and theologians in Christendom.

At 7:45 a.m., the International Prayer Team initiated the devotional phase of the service. There was a segment for the singing of spiritual songs and hymns. Team members offered up supplications asking God to: "Help us to walk in agreement" with His Word. "Thank you Lord for interceding for us," they said. "This manna is full of the Holy Ghost...Thank you



Bishop John H. Sheard, newly elected chairman of the Board of Bishops

for the holiness of this house, and a leader who is calling us to return to holiness," they continued. First Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake presented Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson as a, "spiritually minded, biblically based, Gospel preaching and teaching, leader." Then, Elder Carlis L. Moody, Jr. rendered a soul stirring sermon solo entitled, *We are in His Presence, and We Don't Have to Leave the Same*.

Indicative of a spirit-filled leader, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson moved in the flow of the Holy Ghost. He admonished the saints to give God the Glory for being in His presence. He recalled the miracle recorded in **Matthew 8:16**, where in one evening Jesus healed the entire sick population of Capernaum because, "the power

of the Lord was present to heal them.”

The Presiding Bishop declared that the Saints of COGIC serve the “God of the evening and morning” and that they could be delivered in His presence if they continued to praise Him. He noted that the anointed prayers and ministry of music had ushered in the presence of God. “Lord we are here in your presence,” he exclaimed. “We are just waiting on a touch from you. We thank you for what you have been doing. Every since the beginning of the prayer and consecration, we feel your Glory moving in our midst... We want to thank you that the Ark has return, that the Glory is back, and it is being revealed in the midst of

gates were receiving a breakthrough.

“Hallelujah, Hallelujah,” the Presiding Bishop shouted passionately, while looking upward in giving God the highest praise. “I know this isn’t the way you are supposed to start a service, but the Holy Ghost is in this place.”

Then, our Chief Apostle asked about 150 people who felt like running down in front of the podium and “dancing the victory” on satan’s head to come forward. Immediately more than 200 people ran down front and began to rejoice in the holy dance while thousands of others joined them in the isles or at their seats.

Presiding Bishop Patterson asked members of the General Board to come forward and anoint those seeking healing with the bottles of oil that had been consecrated during the Solemn Assembly and passed out at the start of each Morning Manna service. Among those coming forward for prayer was a granddaughter of Bishop C.H. Mason. A declaration of healing was issued; and God gave the Presiding Bishop other prophetic words through the speaking in tongues.

There was additional praise as our illustrious leader began to sing, I am Healed by the Wound In His Side. There was addi-

tional singing and one-on-one ministry, and the saints continued to rejoice.

Then, the Presiding Bishop asked Prophet Dawson to come forward and share with the saints a revelation word of knowledge that God had given him. Prophet Dawson told the saints that God had shown him that Bishop G.E. Patterson had been spared so that he could return the Church Of God In Christ back to its rich holiness heritage. He said, just like the graves of the saints were open at the death of Christ, and they walked the streets of Jerusalem after Christ’s resurrection – the saints of old of this Church, were walking through the Holy Convocation.



Elder Joe Lyles delivers a powerful sermon at the Convocation's official opening

our Church,” he continued.

Then, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson began to exalt the saints on the Signs of the Believer (**Mark 16:16-18**). “Do we have believers in here,” he asked? He instructed the saints to lift up their hands before the Lord, for there was an anointing in the hands.

After the uplifting of hands, the Presiding Bishop directed each individual to lay hands on seven people and to declare the following: “The power of God is presence; and I command you to be healed, to be delivered, and to be set free!” There was an eruption of praise as God’s presence engulfed the assembly hall. It was apparent that many of the dele-

At this point, the Presiding Bishop recalled how he had seen a number of saints experience being “slain in the spirit” throughout the Holy Convocation. He noted that this was a common occurrence during the lifetime of our Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, but he had not seen it being done this frequently in decades.

He said that some believers try to dismiss the invasion of the Holy Ghost as merely being emotional. “This is not emotionalism,” he declared. “This is the Holy Ghost!”

Then, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson brought a powerful word from **Mark 2: 1-12**. He spoke from the theme, *The Creative Power of Faith*. In his sermon, the Presiding Bishop emphasized the importance of the saints communicating with God by using their mouths and intellect. We should not “dumb up” when it comes to spiritual matters, he said.

At this point in his sermon, the Presiding Bishop stressed the importance of knowing how to recognize the move of the Holy Ghost in receiving a special touch from God. He advised that individuals must avoid carnal people if they expect to operate in the spirit.

He then traced the earthly journey of Jesus Christ from his birth in Bethlehem, his stay in Egypt, his childhood in Nazareth, and then his ministry. He explained that Jesus was well-received in Capernaum.

At this point, the Presiding Bishop noted that the house mentioned in the text was at full capacity. He emphasized that the Church Of God In Christ was propelled into its role in Christendom because Bishop C.H. Mason embraced holiness and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He emphatically stated that there are denominations other than COGIC, where tremendous growth is taking place – and those bodies too are embracing Bishop Mason’s teachings on the Holy Ghost.

He stated if it is noised that Jesus is in the house, there will be both spiritual and numerical growth. He admonished the saints not to lose focus of their rich heritage as a Holiness-Pentecostal body. A special anointing rested on the Presiding Bishop as he talked about being able to break through barriers to receive the deliverance that God has for you through Jesus Christ.

As he preached, God continued to pour out mightily on the saints – and numerous delegates received a special touch from the Lord, while a number of others were filled with the Holy Ghost. The saints departed the Cook Convention Center already anticipating Thursday’s service.

THURSDAY – A Spiritual Cloud Rains Down God’s Glory

Once again at 7:45 a.m., the International Prayer Team

evoked God’s blessings on the second service of Morning Manna. The anointed prayers and songs moved the saints into a glorious state of praise and worship.

Some came forward and bowed down before the Lord; while others rejoiced in the dance or praised the Lord in tongues. Others were involved with one-on-one ministry, and, yes, many were *slain in the spirit*.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson uplifted the saints before the Lord and led them in an extended time of praise and thanksgiving. In his message, the Presiding Bishop took his text from **I Kings Chapter 20**. There, the noted theologian drew a direct parallel with the characters of the text to the Saints of COGIC.

Initially Ahab, King of Israel yielded to the demands of the enemy. He was willing to surrender his wealth, wives and children to Benhadad, King of Syria. Once that concession was made, however, Benhadad wanted to conduct a house-to-house search taking whatever pleased him.

Adhering to the counsel he received from the Elders, Ahab ordered the princes of the provinces to lead Israel’s army against Syria. Although Israel was greatly out numbered, God gave them a resounding victory.

“I want to tell you, that whenever you draw the line with whatever the devil is doing in your life, you’ve got to get ready for a battle,” the Presiding Bishop told the audience. “If you surrender one thing the enemy is going to insist on more. He (satan) is never satisfied.”

The Presiding Bishop added that success should not be measured by the number of people participating in ministry, but by the fact God is hearing the efforts and receiving the praise. “It is not about folks hearing...it is about God hearing,” he said.

At this point, the Presiding Bishop recalled how the following year, God gave Israel another convincing victory over Syria. This was done to refute Syria’s claim “that the Lord of Israel was the God of the hills, but not the God of the valleys.”

He explained that God sometimes allows His people to experience a great victory so that He will receive the Glory. The anointed vessel of God went on to preach the saints to their feet. He concluded the message by having them join both hands with each other and uphold their prayer partner’s need before the Lord.

Again, there was an eruption of praise and thanksgiving.

Then, the Presiding Bishop began to speak by the authority of God: "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," he declared. "Some of you have not spoken in tongues in years."

Suddenly, hundreds of people could be heard and seen speaking in tongues as they ran the isles. God's Glory indeed filled the Cook Convention Center.

FRIDAY – Women's Day at Morning Manna

The gracious women of COGIC were set to gather in Cook Convention Center's main assembly hall at 9 a.m., for the annual Women's Day service of the International Women's Department. To ensure that the 7:45 a.m. session would not impede the start of the Women's Day worship celebration, the Presiding Bishop asked General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers to oversee Friday's *Morning Manna*.

Evangelists Frances Kelley and Bettye Nelson led the assembly in a time of anointed singing and prayer. It was indeed a glorious setting as the sisters arrayed in white stood and worshiped the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

"The Lord is in the place, and we are yet to hear the Word," observed Evangelist Kelley, as she prepared to introduce Mother Rivers. The multi-talented prayer leader introduced Mother Rivers as the "honorable, the kind-hearted, the patience with us, and the giving mother of us all."

A gifted composer, Mother Rivers opened with a melody of *My Soul Loves Jesus*, and *All The Honor and Glory Belongs to God*. The anointed and visionary leader quoted from **Psalm: 64** - as she reflected on the spiritual out-pour that had occurred during each Morning Manna service.

Mother Rivers thanked the Presiding Bishop for allowing the International Women's Department to conduct this session of Morning Manna. She explained that although she had been given permission to be the morning speaker, she would not do so. Then, the General Supervisor presented the dynamic Mother Deola Wells-Jackson of Memphis, Tennessee, as the speaker.

Mother Wells-Jackson took her text from the following passages in the book of

Zephaniah 1:1 & 7; 2:1 & 3; 3:8 & 17. She spoke from the theme, *The Certainty of God's Word*.

Message highlights include: Zephaniah, a young prophet, came to office during the reign of King Josiah. Although this was a time of political and ethnic division, Zephaniah sought to do the will of God. Young women and men involved in ministry should seek God's face and stay focused on His Word. Zephaniah, name means: The Lord Hides or Protects. He took a passionate stand against moral and religious depravity. Young people who grew-up in the Church Of God In Christ should be keenly aware of its rich spiritual heritage. If you have been called by God to minister in this Church, then, "don't sell-out." God's Word is certain. What He has spoken, shall come to pass. Through God's Word we have the supernatural power to overcome the various devices of the devil. Like Zephaniah, we should never lose hope for we should be cognizant of, *The Certainty of God's Word*. Many were lifted to their feet, as the anointed woman of God concluded with 2 Corinthians-2:14 - and Philippians 1: 1-6. Yes, through Jesus Christ we are triumphed, and we can be confident that the good work of the Gospel operating in us will continue until Christ's return.

SATURDAY – Manna for the Sabbath

God's sweet presence was as radiant as a noon day sun in a cloudless sky, at Saturday's Morning Manna service. This was the Sabbath day - which carries a connotation of a time for rest. The only rest on the minds of those in attendance for this worship celebration, however, was the spiritual resting place that would be found in the Word of God spoken by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

Once again, Elder Carlis Moody, Jr. inspired the saints with his melodious sermonic solo. Today's selection was entitled, *Drink From The Water*.

In addressing the audience, the Presiding Bishop asked each individual to touch the person next to them. He made reference to the words of Jesus Christ recorded in **Matthew 18:19** - *Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth touching any thing that they shall ask, it*

shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

He then noted how unusually spiritual the Morning Manna and entire International Holy Convocation had been. "God has invaded our presence at particular every

three people the presence of the Lord is in the room and I command you to be healed, be delivered, and be set free!"

The saints adhered to the Presiding Bishop's directive, and there was an extended time of praise and thanksgiving. At



1st Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake greets delegates to the 97th International Holy Convocation

setting," the Presiding Bishop said. He added that many lives had been impacted during the services.

"When we leave here, at the conclusion of this Convocation I want you to know that we've been drinking from that water that Elder Moody was singing about," he said. "We are not thirsty for anything else, nothing else will do. For once you get a taste of this water, it doesn't matter what else the devil offers...I am... not thirsty for that any more."

At this point, the Presiding Bishop began to pray. He noted that the saints were touching in agreement, and asked the Lord to send forth his Glory that sinners might be saved, and backsliders reclaimed. Additionally, he asked for a refilling of the Holy Ghost for the entire assembly.

"Fill us again," he prayed. "I feel your Glory in the room, fill us again. God we will not abuse your anointing, we will not misuse it. Hallelujah... we will be empowered by your spirit, empowered by your Glory, and we give you, all of the honor through Christ our Lord," he concluded. Then he added: "Listen before you sit down; you may have to move a little bit, but I don't want you to sit down until you tell

this point, Our Chief Apostle advised the audience that he had heard the Holy Ghost say: "The Glory is back."

Later, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson would deliver another awesome sermon. His text was taken from **II Samuel 5: 17-20**, and he spoke from the theme, *Lord Give me that Breakthrough Anointing*.

In his message, the Presiding Bishop explained that it takes a special anointing from God to break the devil's strongholds. Individuals are either possessed with the Holy Spirit or an evil spirit, he noted. The anointing empowers individuals to do the work that God has called them to do. In the Old Testament the oil was symbolic of God's anointing, but the Holy Ghost is the true anointing, he continued.

"Having said this about the anointing let me also warn you, there is a dark side and there is bright side when you have been anointed" he said. At this point, the Presiding Bishop referred to his text. He noted that when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed King of Israel, they moved against him. After seeking God's guidance, David fought and defeated the Philistines at Baal-

perazim. The name of this place means, *The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies*.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson advised the saints that the anointing of God brings them into spiritual warfare with satan and his demons. Yes, the anointing of God through the Holy Ghost gives them the victory over the spiritual Philistines. Then, the Presiding Bishop emphasized the importance of praise in receiving a breakthrough anointing from God.

"Whatever you got left give it to Him in praise," he



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson addresses the 97th International Holy Convocation at Historic Mason Temple

exclaimed. He recalled that David's first anointing was at home. Following that anointing, an evil spirit fell on Saul, he explained. The Presiding Bishop cautioned that behind every anointing satan launches an attack.

David's second anointing came at Hebron, where he was anointed King of Judah – which means praise, the Presiding Bishop noted. Following that anointing he had to war with Saul's son, Ish-bosheth – whom he defeated after a two-year campaign.

Finally, the Philistines came against David after he was anointed king over the entire nation of Israel. This of course, led to the breakthrough at Baal-perazim.

"I got a Holy Ghost breakthrough," the Presiding Bishop

said, as he reflected on the spiritual significance of David's victory. "I wish you would look at somebody...and tell them that God wants to give you a breakthrough," he declared.

Bishop G.E. Patterson concluded his message by recalling an encounter that King David had with Shimei in **II Samuel 16**.

"All he (Shimei) could do was throw rocks, curse and kick-up dust," he said. "Somebody in here God has anointed you, and it looks like the enemy is trying to stop you. I want you to know that all the enemy can do is curse, throw rocks and kick-up dust," the Presiding Bishop continued.

He then exclaimed that God is the devil's dust settler. Additionally, if you are convinced that God's anointing is upon you, then, give God the praise, the Presiding Bishop declared.

The saints responded, and the rejoicing was on. Again, there was a mighty out-pour of the Holy Ghost. Presiding Bishop G.E.

Patterson concluded his powerful

message by declaring that the enemy's dust would not impact the lives of God's people. "Praise the Lord," he exclaimed. "God's Glory is in this place."

ELDERS TAKING OWNERSHIP IN THE BUSINESS ARENA

ELDER WILLIAM WILKERSON

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF B & R AUTOMOTIVE

Hampton, Virginia – A year ago, Elder William Wilkerson had a vision concerning opening an Auto-repair shop in his local area. Elder Wilkerson is an associate minister at New Community Temple COGIC, where Bishop Ted Thomas, Jurisdictional Prelate for Virginia's First, is pastor. After talking to Bishop Thomas about his burning desire to establish his business; he received what he believed to be a conformation from God. He was encouraged by his pastor to move forward and achieve his dream.



Elder William and Evangelist Renee Wilkerson

Today, Elder Wilkerson's dream has become a reality. Located at 15 Newsome Place, B&R has a growing clientele. The company is a full service Auto-repair shop.

"Yes sir, we can handle any size or type of vehicle," Elder Wilkerson told *The Whole Truth*. "Let me tell you, God has blessed us to do just that. We have even repaired some of the latest models vehicles that carry the latest automotive technology."

B&R's CEO said his staff consists of four persons, and they place emphasis on quality service and customer satisfaction. "No matter what your business might be, you must be totally sold out to pleasing the customer and giving top quality in

your work and services," he said.

Word of that "top quality" soon spread across Hampton and that led to the company landing a major corporate contract. "Enterprise Rent-A-Car contacted us about entering an agreement with them," he recalled. "We were able to reach an agreement, and now we are repairing fleet vehicles for seven different Enterprise facilities."

When asked by *The Whole Truth*: "How did that contract impact your business?" The reply was: "The business received a great boost...we have had to relocate to a much larger building and are scrambling to accommodate the workload."

Elder Wilkerson added that his successful venture into the business arena is just another blessing as a direct result of Bishop Thomas' ministry. "We (his wife, Evangelist T. Renee Wilkerson) relocated to Virginia slightly over four years ago and the Lord most definitely led us in the selection of New Community COGIC. Bishop Thomas is the most transparently Spirit filled man I know. I have experienced great personal renewal and revival under his preaching," he said.

So, if you are in the Hampton area and in need of Auto-repair, you can contact B&R Automotive at (757) 722-1000.

ELDER OLIVER T. WILLIAMS

President / CEO of The Source Mortgage & Funding, Inc.

Memphis, Tennessee – Solomon observes in *Proverbs 22:1* – *A Good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.* Elder Oliver T. Williams has found that same principle to apply to one's credit rating. In fact, as President and CEO of The Source Mortgage & Funding, Inc., Elder Williams is keenly aware that a poor credit rating can prevent an individual from not only obtaining that "dream home", but if not repaired – that unfavorable credit history could impact other areas of a person's life as well.

"I have discovered from my years in the lending industry that people who are struggling with credit problems have low self esteem," Elder Williams told *The Whole Truth*. "They are feeling badly about themselves due to the realization that their credit problems are well documented. Unfortunately, many people in our great nation, especially African-Americans, are to the point that they are settling for whatever that is offered to them as a way to build or repair their credit – just because they need to do something to move forward."

This insightful entrepreneur added that people with bad credit are often taken advantage of by unscrupulous business persons who charge a fee to repair their credit, and then fail to deliver the services promised. The client does not get that desired home, or automobile – just deeper in debt.

The articulate minister of the Gospel said the plight being encountered by those under the heavy burden of a bad credit history; spurred him to do a work for

the Lord. In December 2002, he established a company that was designed to be a source of empowerment for those who genuinely wanted to repair their credit and possess the land of home ownership.



Elder Oliver and Mrs. Shunta Williams with their daughter, Karrington

"I have vowed to the Lord to be His hand in this process," Elder Williams said. "The Source is here to assist people who need a hand-up instead of a hand-out," he continued. "We are open and available to provide the services to get the help." Yes, residents in the Greater Memphis area can, Get Connected to the Source. Services offered include: 100% Loans, Credit Repair, Church Loans, Residential and Commercial, Good, Bad or Slow Credit, and Debt Consolidation and Refinance. Additionally, Elder Williams is in the process of establishing a Community

Development Corporation (CDC) to further assist those who need special funding in order to purchase that home.

"Our Community Development Corporation will provide grant funding for some of those who might not be able to go through the loan process in a normal way," the 32 year old minister/entrepreneur explained. "It will target normal families with an abnormal income. For example, a family of four children and two adults would need at least a four bedroom home. In the Memphis market that home would be in the \$90,000 to \$150,000 range. Our CDC has the stated mission to make that average cost more affordable – say in the \$50,000 to \$70,000 category. Of course, this will offer

a more flexible environment for the customer.”

Yes, the President and CEO of The Source, wants his clients to know that there is help and hope. His company offers help via the services and expertise to resolve those credit problems and get them into a home. In those cases where there are unique challenges, then hope is provided by searching diligently to find special funding or solutions.

Whether it's through the normal or special funding, clients of The Source are advised that they must be willing to be active participants in repairing their credit. This could mean paying off their open collections, or delaying major purchases. They are advised that being giving a hand-up dictates putting up and reaching up.

The company is experiencing tremendous success in its effort to be the connection for improving the quality of life for its customers. Last year, nearly 50 clients were awarded more than \$4 million in loans.

For Elder Williams, his work in the marketplace is an extension of ministry. He attends Holy Trinity COGIC, where the Dr. L.T. Frye is senior pastor. Elder Williams serves as youth pastor at Holy Trinity. Additionally, he is active in the Department of Education and he conducts leadership seminars.

“I believe when you are faithful on the spiritual side the Lord will make room and add a super to your natural side,” he explained. “Your faithfulness to the spiritual enhances the natural.”

The veteran loan executive noted that for the Memphis market, that enhancement includes just not settling for the chariot of car ownership, but possessing the land of owning a home.

“Lending in the Memphis area has changed over a period of ten years,” Elder Williams advised. “It used to be that it was a lot easier to buy a car than it was to purchase a home. So, lenders have become more aggressive due to the fact that they saw the multiplicity of car purchases in this market. Whereas that would suggest that we would purchase a car faster than we would purchase a home. We would go out and exhaust all our income in automobiles and live in an apartment or live with a family member, due to the fact that we could have the car that we desired, but we

would not have any assets. I looked in the Bible and saw that land was a precious commodity. God did not say anything about horses and chariots, but He did guarantee us that we would have land.”

Elder Williams noted that an alarming number of African Americans in the Greater Memphis area are allowing their bad credit rating to cause them not to pursue owning land in the form of home ownership. Many African Americans in this area are dual car owners, but they are not acquiring land, he observed. “Because credit has allowed us to struggle acquiring land, we would rather settle for the horses and chariots,” Elder Williams said. “Land, however, is where the power is. Our struggle within the African American culture is that we have a lot of horses and chariots, but we are last on the list in land.”

In fact, it was in the spirit of helping people of color possess the land that The Source Mortgage & Funding, Inc. was founded. Elder Williams and his dedicated staff are committed to the cause of showing their clients how they can correct their credit deficiencies by paying their way into good credit.

The President and CEO used an analogy of taking the plastic off of a sofa to emphasize the focus of his company. He noted that as long as the plastic remains on the sofa, it looks good, but the fabric is not receiving oxygen. That lack of oxygen can lead to a series of problems, including the fading of the fabric. So it is with individuals with a bad credit rating. They might look good displaying the plastic of an impressive wardrobe or automobile, but that plastic will have to be removed from the sofa of bad credit in order for it to breathe and maintain or regain its hue. Thus, The Source stands ready to take the plastic off that sofa of bad credit.

Elder Williams has been involved in the lending arena for more than 10 years. He has a degree from Crichton College and is currently enrolled at Memphis Theological Seminary. His charming wife, Shunta, works with him at The Source. They are the loving parents of a baby daughter, Karrington.

The Source Mortgage & Funding, Inc. is located at 3540 Summer Avenue, Suite 400 Memphis, TN 38122. For additional information about the services offered you may call, (901) 327-6160 or E-mail: o_thomas38049@yahoo.com.

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT SUBJECT MATTER FROM THE HOLY BIBLE

Capturing the Essence of Jesus: The Christological Question

By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson, M. Div., Ph.D.

Jurisdictional Prelate, New Jersey, First Jurisdiction

Part I of II

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matt. 16:13;16)

The starting point for all worthy understanding of the person and works of Jesus Christ is the Holy Bible, both Old and New Testaments. The Christological question has been the subject of much discussion for many years, and the true identity and nature of Jesus is far from being settled among many Christian denominations today.

The Christological question surrounds the word itself, or the definition and the meaning of the word. Christology is the study of the person and works of Jesus Christ. The Christological study not only presupposes a multiplicity of divine activities and involvements, the study also involves incarnation, preexistence, perpetual existence, divine mission, Messianism, Sonship and co-equality with God. No credible and scholarly Christological study has any validity that does not ground itself in the biblical claim of the preexistent Word (Logos) and the incarnate Christ.

The purpose of this article is to follow the biblical understandings of the purpose and works of Jesus in an

effort to provide insights into the Sonship of Christ so that there is a clearer understanding of the distinction between Sonship and fatherhood.



Bishop Martin Luther Johnson

A common saying that is used among some Jewish scholarly circles is that whenever three Jewish scholars discuss a subject, at least four views are expressed. One may easily say that also of many Christian theologians. I am not sure that differing opinions are all negative, or bad. After all, the Scripture is of no private interpretation. However, true and credible scholarship is obligated to use the relevant points of departure in order to properly exegete both the implicit and explicit contents of the text. All proper and adequate understandings of the Jesus of history and the Christ of faith commence with the Holy Bible. The New Testament is

more of a theological treatment of the life of Jesus than it is an historical presentation. While the biblical writers were limited human beings, they did express their theological/Christological understandings of Jesus as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit.

One of the obvious and significant points of departure

and norms for an adequate approach to New Testament Christology is the Petrine Declaration in response of Jesus raising the question while visiting the coasts of Caesarea and Philippi. Here Jesus poses a rhetorical question as to the common community's perception of him. While there was never a question in the mind of Jesus as to his true origin/preexistence, the responses to the question reveals a divergence of personal perceptions as to the common opinions that had perpetrated the community of his day. At least on two occasions the New Testament does report questions raised by Jesus as to popular opinions regarding his identity: "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?" Matt. 22:42; "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" Matt. 16:13. It is significant that both of these questions are present in Matthew. In Matthew is used "The Son of the living God", while Mark 8:29 says "Thou art the Christ", and Luke 9:20 says: "The Christ of God." It is obvious and interesting that while the other two Synoptic Gospels, the Markan and the Lukan narratives differ in terminology from that of Matthew, the Johanne narrative agrees with the Matthean narrative in terminology, "...that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:69. It is noteworthy that in both of the questions raised by Jesus as to his identity within the circle of his disciples, both Matthew and John report that he used the noun, the upper case "Son", but while talking to the Pharisees, he uses the noun, in the lower case "son", Matthew 22:41-42.

There are three specific New Testament references and profound Christological statements and assertions that seem to get at the very core of the New Testament writers' understandings and presentations of the primitive Christian community's understanding of the person and Works of Jesus Christ. One of the earliest theological treatments presented on the Christ of Faith is the one in the Pauline letter to the Church at Philippi, written between A.D. 54- 62 of the Christian era. The first reference is Philippians 2:5-11; the second is the Johanne Gospel, written between A.D. 80-90 of the Christian era, and Matthew, written, obviously before A.D. 70 because there is no mention of the fall of Jerusalem under the rein of the Roman General, Titus.

One approach to an adequate understanding of the true nature and purpose of Jesus is to retrieve the records that reflect his understanding of himself: the questions he raised as to who he is, the responses to his questions, and his responses to the answers given to his questions. While Paul's letters predate the writing of Matthew chronologically, Matthew's writings reflect the consciousness of Jesus, his mission, and the

earliest Christian community's assessment of him. Matthew writes primarily to the Primitive Palestinian Jewish-Christian community of the First century of the Christian era and reflects that community's understanding of Jesus, while Paul writes to the Hellenistic Gentile community of the Greek-Roman world in his efforts to make the Gospel of Jesus relevant and appealing to a different political, cultural, religious and intellectual setting than that of Jerusalem and Palestine. Paul writes to the Hellenistic Gentile world, Matthew writes to the earliest Christian community of Palestine and John writes basically to a Greek-Gnostic Hellenistic world whose religious orientations were totally different, for the most parts, from those of the Juadeo-Christian world.

It is obvious that Matthew is of Jewish orientation in his genealogy of Jesus in Chapter one of his Gospel. For, Matthew Jesus is the Messiah-redeemer based upon the lineage through which he comes to earth. Therefore, there is a father, a mother, a birthday, etc. But for John, there is no birthday of Jesus, and no baptism of Jesus in his Gospel. For John, Jesus is the Pre-existent Word (Logos) who always was/is. But for Paul, Jesus is the Christ of faith (this side of the cross) because Paul was not a part of the earliest Christian community at Jerusalem (before the cross). He had not been with the Apostolic Circle since Christ's baptism, Acts 1:21-22.

The point of departure for all Christological studies of the Jesus of history must begin with that Petrine confession while Jesus was visiting the coasts of Caesarea and Philippi. Here is not only raised the profound Christological question, but there is also a revelation of Jesus' boldness to surface the question on soil that was not historically the territory of Jewish-Christian Faith: this was the territory of Caesar and Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. The region was named in honor of Philip and Caesar. Actually, Caesarea Philippi was Caesarea's town, or territory. This would suggest that the area's god would be one other than the Judaeo-Christian God. There has been and remains much discussion in theological circles as to the reason why Jesus chose this location to have this claim of himself made. It seems true here that Jesus again transcends the confines of Palestinian Jewish territory to really have his Sonship declared in foreign parts.

Peter's confession at Caesarea and Philippi and the response of Jesus to Peter's confession is the foundation stone upon which the Sonship of Jesus and the Christian Faith rest: "Thou art the Christ..." You are the Christos, The Messiah, The Anointed One, the ointment, or salve to be rubbed on for healing. You are the Son of the living God. In two of the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew and Luke, there is reported an earthly birth of Jesus, while Mark begins his Gospel rather abruptly with, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God..." and John begins with, "In the beginning was the Word..." While each of the Gospels, the Synoptic (seeing with same view) and the Johannine, has its own personal presentation and treatment of the oral tradition of the earliest Christian community, each also has a specific purpose for writing the letter, or the Gospel: Matthew is largely Jewish, Mark is both Greek and Roman, Luke-Acts is a history of the early church addressed to Theophilus, apparently a high-ranking official at Rome and John is basically written as an apologia (an explanation) and a polemic (defense of) of the Christian Faith to the Greek-Gnosticism of the Hellenistic world of that day; therefore, the Book of St. John was not only written as an explanation of the Faith, it was also written in defense of the Faith in a largely Gnostic, anti-Christian environment.

One of the steps that one must take in biblical interpretation and exegesis is, of course, language and word concepts. Equally important is an understanding of the historically setting out of which the document emerged: the culture, the politics, the religious influences prevalent and, of course, the intended purpose of the writer. With that in mind, perhaps we should explore/examine some of the language/words used in the selected texts for this study. The words and phrases that stand out prominently in the texts are: (1) Son;

(2) Christ; (3) Living God; (4) Father; (5) The Christ of God; (6) The Logos; (7) Flesh; (8) Begotten; (9) Form of God; (10) Equality; (11) Doulos, slave, servant; (12) Humiliation; (13) Exaltation.

There is nowhere in scripture where Jesus calls himself God. In fact the passage in which he is offered the honorific title "Good Master" he quickly denies it and responds "there is none good but one, God." However, Jesus knows himself to be in close filial intimacy with God as His Father and that he occupies a specific place in His relationship with God, the Father. Therefore, he further attests to his Sonship in

his response to the Jews in St. John 8:16-19, where he specifically states by the reference to the Jewish Law of two witnesses: "I am one that bears witness of myself and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me." John 8:18. These verses in John specifically support two distinct persons: the Son and the Father, two-witness concept.

The Petrine confession and the subsequent affirmation by Jesus are further examples of the Sonship of Jesus Christ: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." If Jesus were to ever deny his Sonship, here was an opportune occasion on which to do so. Because there is no internal evidence of his denial of his Sonship, we were left to believe that Peter's confession subscribed to the true nature of Jesus, the Christ. It's both interesting and significant that Peter does not use the earthly title, Jesus, but rather he uses the Greek word, Christos, or the Anointed, the Messiah, or the salve to be rubbed on to bring soothing to the body and soul and, the Suffering Servant, or Doulos, or Slave.

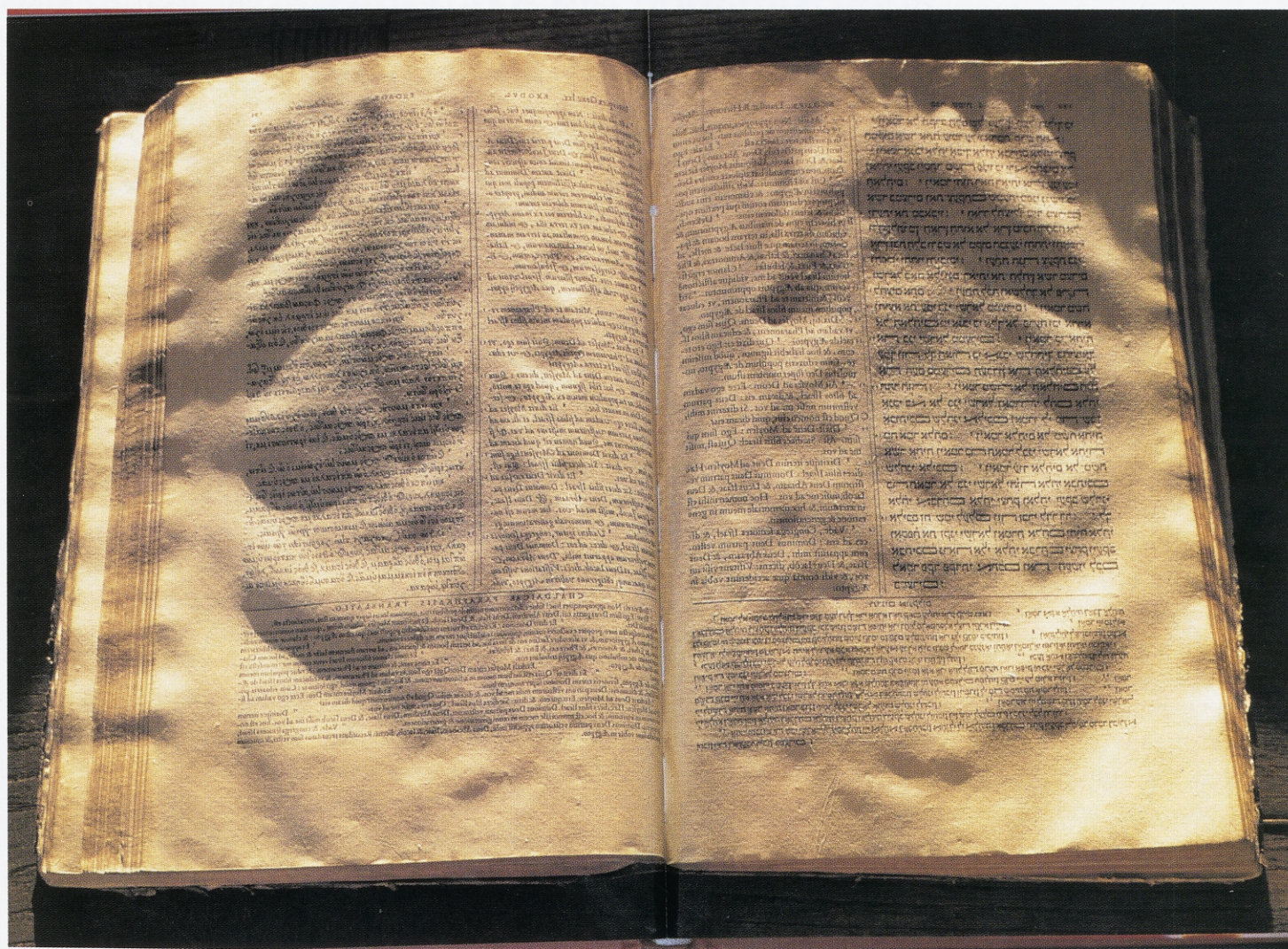
One cannot avoid raising the question as to the obvious or insidious motive for Jesus' trip into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi and why he chose to raise the question of his own identity in a region that was essentially

**Jesus is the Christ of God
revealed in human flesh! It is to
be noted that Jesus is not an
approximation of God, He is
fully God and fully Man, while
God is never fully Man, but He
is always fully God: ...**

outside of the confines of Jewish/Christian territory. But herein lies a core tenet of the Christian Faith in general of the Church Of God In Christ doctrine specifically: Jesus is the Christ of God revealed in human flesh! It is to be noted that Jesus is not an approximation of God, He is fully God and fully Man, while God is never fully Man, but He is always fully God: "...for God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth," John 4:24. God is not seen by humans in a live form, (Genesis 32:30; Exodus 33: 20; Isaiah 6:5; John 1:18). To see the face of God was to die was the norm and the expected results of the Old Testament understanding of God. However, exceptions were made as are seen in the few divine appearances noted above. Biblical scholarship attempts to get at the core understanding of the message and meaning of scripture which involves regression to the original settings that produced the text. The key task of biblical exegetes (interpreters) is their treatment of the oral tradition

(the word-of-mouth information of the early Christians), which leads to textual criticism, source criticism, form criticism, and redaction criticism. Criticism as is understood here is to mean examining carefully the materials before us. Thus one examines the language of Matthew in Chapter 16:16 in which Peter exclaims: "The Son of the living God." Notice, not just the Son of God is used, but "the Son of the living God." The adjective, living, is important here because it clearly distinguishes between a god of the Caesarea Philippi community and "The living God" of the Jewish-Christian community. The confession further suggests the gods of Caesarea Philippi were dead gods, which places the God of Israel above and beyond the gods of the Pagan world of Caesar and Philip of Macedon.

This concludes Part I of this series. In the April/May/June issue of The Whole Truth we will conclude this article by taking a closer look at: Sonship in the New Testament.



COGIC youth spotlight

The following essay was written by Ms. Ashley Burke of Fairhope, Alabama. Ashley 14, is a member of Fairhope COGIC, where Elder Donald Redd, Sr. serves as pastor.

Ashley was recently saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. This charming 8th grader's life has been so enriched through Elder Redd's ministry and by fellowshiping with the saints at Fairhope – she was inspired to write an essay challenging young people to give their lives to Jesus Christ and to be empowered by the Holy Ghost. This insightful teenager is convinced that our nation's youth can only find the true meaning and purpose of life in God through his son, Jesus Christ.

Our Youth Today: Our Youth Tomorrow

By Ashley Burke

The youth today are not youth. I mean we never want to do anything, but just sit around and play all day. Hardly any of us think about what we should do with our life; we just live it. Now I have a friend (Gary Wallace) that is my age who wants to do something with the youth. Now I see where he is coming from. I mean, come on, what kind of kid would just come out and say, "Hey, I want to live a Christian life"? They could, if only someone shows them how. It is very simple; all you have to do is believe and have faith; then it will come to you. But you have to want to it first.

See the youth today think that it is such a hard thing to do, but guess what? It is not. I mean I'm saved; I'm not going to lie – before I was saved, I was just like everyone else, thinking, "Oh, I got lots of time. I can wait till later to give my life to Christ." But, guess what? I'm blessed because there probably could not be a later. Some people don't even make it to adulthood, sometimes not even childhood. That is why it is good to get your life right, now. So you will be able to say that I gave my life to Christ and won't have to die in my sin and go to hell. You will be able to live in paradise forever with Christ.

That is why we need to get the youth together to help those that are lost and need to be found. We need to show



Ashley Burke

other youth that they do not have to live as they live in the streets, somewhere on drugs, or as babies having babies outside of marriage. We really can make a big difference if we try. There is no excuse for us kids these days to be acting the way we do. I know you probably are thinking, "Well, she doesn't know what I've been through." I probably do not, but that still is not a good enough excuse because it is not hard to get saved.

I know some people feel that God never helped them, but that is just the devil trying to trick them and make them think that, but God is always there. He'll never leave you nor forsake you. God already did His part by sending his son Jesus (to die) on the cross for our sin. So we can have grace and mercy everlasting life with Christ.

So there is no reason for the youth to be used by the devil. The youth cannot say that nobody warned them because everywhere they go there is Christ; somewhere they can find him or he finds them. Some people believe that you can only get saved at church. I would think it would be better to get saved at church, so you'll be surrounded by saints, people who care. But you can also get saved at home or anywhere because God is everywhere. You'll still need to go to church so you'll be surrounded by other saved people who will persuade you to go up higher in sanctification.

Getting saved is not all: You'll still need to receive the Holy Ghost to enter the gates of heaven. That is very simple as well. For example, it's just like taking off an old jacket and putting on a new one, one that is clean and has no rips or wrinkles. I am not saying you will be perfect, but you will know when you do something wrong, so you can repent and not do it again. It is like a man that was once blind and now he can see. It gives you the strength to help you to go through everyday life. I mean we're born in the world, but we don't have to be a part of it.

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

One Glorious Service Edifies Saints at Four Locations

By Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee – Sunday morning serves as the pinnacle day of worship for most Christians, and certainly that holds true for the saints who attend the International Holy Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ. More than 20,000 delegates in attendance at the 97th International Holy Convocation engulfed The Pyramid Arena Sunday, November 14, 2004, to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and to receive the Word of God delivered by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. Thousands of others via a special teleconference network – were able to experience the glory of the Lord's Day service at Cook Convention Center, Temple of Deliverance, and Historic Mason Temple.



An anointed Word from our Leader

Saints started to gather at The Pyramid Arena as early as 4:00 a.m. to ensure they would secure prime seating for the propitious setting. This meant they were in time for the International Sunday School, which got underway at 5:00 a.m. Supt. Alton Gatlin, President of the International Sunday School Department, and Mother Georgia Lowe, International Field Representative, did their usual exceptional performance in planning and implementing a comprehensive Sunday School presentation. (For more details on Sunday School, please see article, Convocation Highlights.)

At the conclusion of Sunday School, the audience's attention quickly turned to the Lord's Day worship. Many of the saints discussed how they had enjoyed all of the worship opportunities and related activities of the 97th International Holy Convocation. Some made it a point to note how spiritual the services had been, and how they had received a special blessing during the *Morning Manna* services.

Yes, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson definitely ministered under a special anointing at *Morning Manna*, they said. The overwhelming consensus of the audience was that our Chief Apostle would once again take the saints to another level of spiritual enlightenment with his Lord's Day message.

Then, at 9 a.m. Dr. Vernard Johnson, conductor of the International Orchestra, signaled the musicians to start the overture for the Apostolic Processional and the Call to Worship. It was time to worship and hear what the Lord had to say to the Church, through His esteemed spokesman, The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson.

The C.H. Mason Memorial Choir under the capable direction of Professor Iris Stevenson joined



A Song of Praise

with the International Orchestra to musically declare, *Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy!* The General Officers, Board of Bishops, General Board and Assistant Presiding Bishops took their places on the platform. Then, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson entered his pulpit for the day, carrying the rod of the Chief Shepherd.

First Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake had the congregation join in with the musical aggregation in singing *Holy, Holy, Holy...God In Three Persons Blessed Trinity*. General Board Member, Bishop

Leroy Anderson gave the invocation. He led the saints in a medley of *My Soul Loves Jesus* and the National Anthem of our Church, Yes.

"Thank you Dear God for the gathering together, at the call of our Presiding Bishop in this Holy Convocation," Bishop Anderson prayed. "We thank you Lord for the blessings that we have received since early Monday morning. It was you that poured out your blessings. It was you Lord that sent your anointing. We thank you for the



Lord's Day celebrants

anointing of the power of the Holy Ghost, Hallelujah...Lord we come together today to worship your name...look upon us today Lord, continue your blessings on us. Pour out your spirit Lord. Let your anointing come today. In the Name of Jesus, anoint us Lord, anoint our Presiding Bishop, word his mouth Lord. Give us to glorify you...In the Name of Jesus. Stretch out your hand. Everywhere Lord, Everywhere. Glory to God...Thanks be to God," he continued.

Then, the C.H. Mason Memorial Choir chanted the *Lord's Prayer*. After that chant, the choir rendered an anthem on the Holy Convocations that God gave Moses to establish for the children of Israel in **Leviticus: 23rd Chapter**. Then, the choir did another version of *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Following the reading of the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures by General Board Members bishops George D. McKinney and Chandler D. Owens, and the singing of the anthem, *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord*, by the choir – Bishop Barnett K. Thoroughgood led the saints in a stirring rendition of the congregational hymn, *Come Unto Me*.

After General Board member, Bishop Philip A. Brooks led the saints in the *Affirmation of our Faith*, the C.H. Mason Memorial Choir uplifted the audience with the praise, *The Presence of the Lord is Here*.

Then, First Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, who served as the presiding official for the Lord's Day celebration, led the congregation in a time of praise and thanksgiving. "Child of God the world may be coming against you today, but your joint heir, your Lord and Savior, the power of the Holy Ghost are in the room right now," Bishop Blake declared. "Listen, nothing can come against you, that you can't handle, because the presence of the Lord is here...Hallelujah," he continued.

At this point in the service, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor for the Department of Women came forward with remarks. In her comments, Mother Rivers recalled how the presence of God had indeed been prevalent during the entire Holy Convocation. She then commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the leadership of COGIC for a job well done. Mother Rivers asked all of the women in the audience to stand, and she then repledged the support of the Department of Women to Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the entire leadership of COGIC.

The Church Of God In Christ is internationally acclaimed for its esteemed legacy. Anointed and dedicated men of God who have impacted the world through effective ministry occupy a prominent segment of our rich heritage. The late, Bishop W.A. Patterson, father of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, is such a man.

In introducing a special video presentation which featured Bishop W.A. Patterson preaching, Bishop Blake noted:

"We now have in store a wonderful, wonderful, experience. We get to see a piece of our history. First Thessalonians 5 and 12, admonishes us, 'to know them that labor among us'. There are so few individuals in our church who really know much about our leader, Bishop G.E. Patterson, but Bishop G.E. Patterson comes from a long line of preachers. We all know about his uncle, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., who was our first elected Presiding Bishop. We know Bishop J.O. Patterson, but not everyone knows the father of our Presiding Bishop, the late, Bishop W.A. Patterson, Sr., who was the first preacher in a long line of Patterson preachers. Bishop W.A. Patterson, Sr. was saved and received the gift of the Holy Ghost after his father, Elder William Marion Patterson. But Bishop W.A. Patterson began to preach before his father, and even before his younger brother, the First Presiding Bishop of the Church. Bishop W.A. Patterson was the first and probably the most anointed of all the preachers in the Patterson family. We have the wonderful privilege now of seeing a brief excerpt from a sermon delivered by Bishop W.A. Patterson at the age of 89 years old. And, the same anointing that was present on the day that Bishop W.A. Patterson preached that sermon has been captured on this video. It is less than two minutes....please roll the video."

In the sermon that was delivered at Temple of Deliverance, Bishop W.A. Patterson recounted how Apostle Thomas doubted the news that Jesus Christ had indeed been resurrected from the grave, and declared that he would have to see the nail prints in Christ's hands before he believed. This discourse was near the conclusion of the powerful message.

"Jesus walked in with the door closed," Bishop W.A. Patterson recalled. "Walked in, didn't nobody have to tell Jesus what Thomas said. But Jesus said, 'Thomas come here. Look at my hands. Put your hand in my side. Be not faithless, but believeth.' Brother Thomas said, 'my Lord and my God.' Jesus said, 'you believe because you see, but blessed or they that believe and have not seen.' HI Yah," Bishop W.A. Patterson proclaimed while many in the video audience stood in recognition of the anointing that rested in his words, and gave God the glory. "Yeah, thank you, glory. Jesus, my soon coming King, Jesus, my heart fixer, Jesus, my mind regulator, Jesus," concluded Bishop W.A. Patterson before being escorted back to his seat by his son, Bishop G.E. Patterson.

The response from the audience in The Pyramid was the same as the video audience – praises and Glory were offered up to God. Thanks were given for both the message and messenger.

Bishop Blake recognized the exemplary leadership of the Presiding Bishop, and requested prayers for his continued strength – before presenting the video. So, at the conclusion of the presentation, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson was in charge of the Lord's Day service.

"Well praise God for my daddy, the late, Bishop W.A. Patterson," Bishop G.E. Patterson requested. He then recalled that Bishop W.A. Patterson went home to be with the Lord at the age of 93, in 1991. The Presiding Bishop recounted how his father was the first in the Patterson family to answer God's call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that the anointing of God was quite evident upon his life, even in his senior years.

At this point the Presiding Bishop reminisced about how God had poured out his spirit throughout the Holy Convocation. He mentioned the three different venues of worship – Historic Mason Temple, Cook Convention Center, and The Pyramid Arena.

Our Chief Apostle then noted that saints were celebrating

shout of H-A-L-L-E-L-U-J-A-H," the Presiding Bishop declared. Immediately praise erupted at all four of the venues as the Presiding Bishop exclaimed: "To God Be the Glory!"

Yes, thanks to the innovative leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson more than 30,000 saints could celebrate Lord's Day at the Holy Convocation. Before the implementation of the teleconference worship locations, thousands of saints had to be turned away at the door and leave COGIC's Jerusalem without worshipping at the Holy Convocation on Sunday morning.

Following the offering, the choir blessed the congregation with the praise, *I am Still Here by the Grace of God*. Then,

Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes noted there is no service that convenes in the Holy Convocation like that of the Official Day service. "No one else can do what the leader does, because God gives him that spiritual and special anointing," he said.

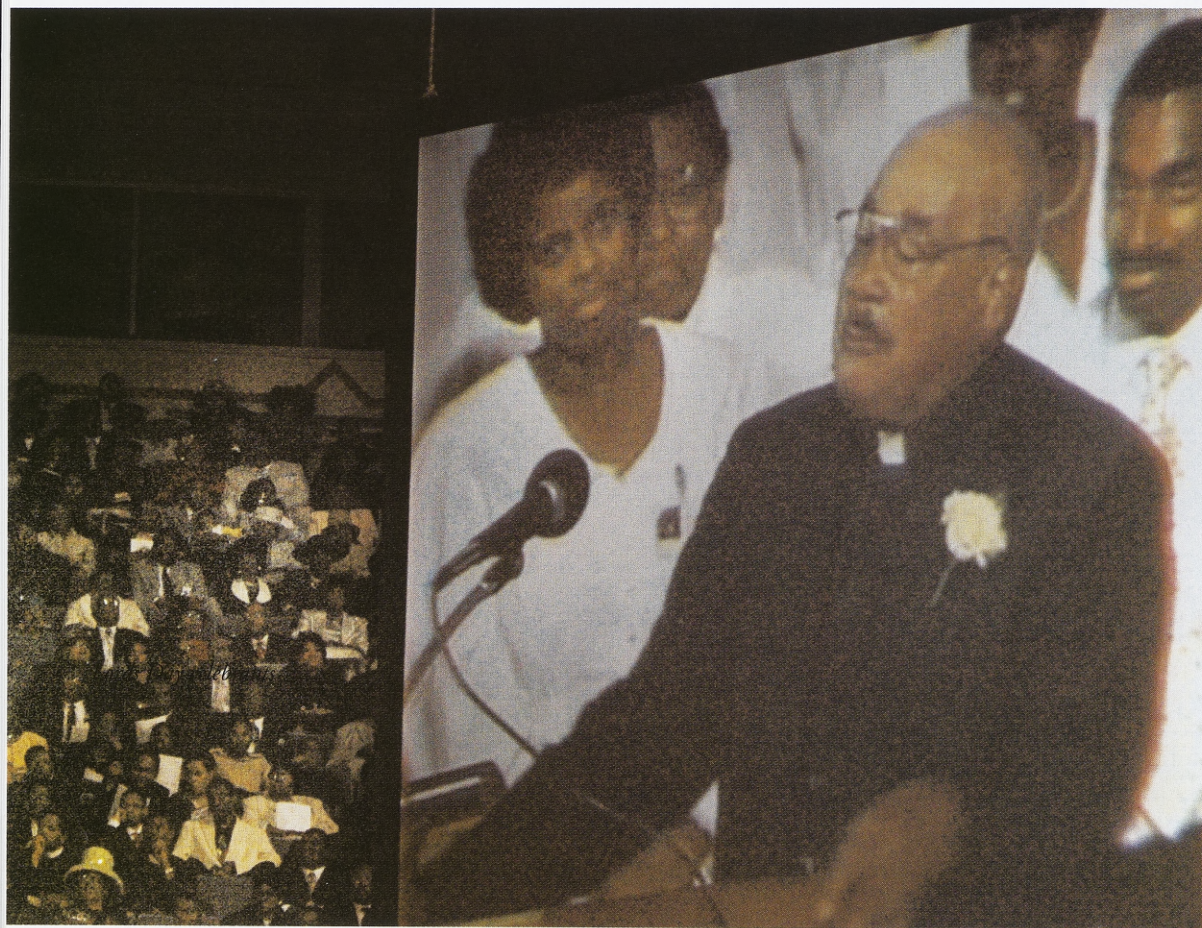
Bishop Haynes presented the Presiding Bishop as being an anointed, insightful leader. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is also a noted theologian, scholar and powerful preacher, Bishop Haynes said.

Sister Valetta Brinson, a member of Temple of Deliverance COGIC, where the Presiding Bishop serves as senior pastor, gave the sermon-ic solo. Sister Brinson, a

classical trained singer, gave a powerful presentation of the old Negro Spiritual, *Give Me Jesus*. In fact, Sister Brinson has been cast as Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – in an opera about the life of this civil rights legend.

After his opening prayer, the Presiding Bishop led the congregation in a COGIC congregational standard; I'll take Jesus for Mine. "This is the day of celebration, and the Lord has been moving in our midst all of this week," he said.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson took his text from **Numbers 23: 16-20**. He spoke from the theme; *If God says you're Blessed: You're Blessed*.



A video tribute to the late, Bishop W. A. Patterson

the Lord's Day Service at three different locations other than The Pyramid. He asked that a live feed be sent to Mason Temple, where Bishop Bobby Henderson was serving as host. Then, the saints at Temple of Deliverance where Supt. Darwin Randolph served as host gave their greetings. From there the audience at Cook Convention Center appeared on the screen. "The presence of the Lord is here," said host Bishop Charles Brown, while the people in the audience waved their hands and lifted their voices in a crescendo shout of approval.

"Now at all of the venues, let's just give the Lord a great

In his opening remarks, the Presiding Bishop noted that the Holy Bible is the most unique book in creation. He observed that the Holy Bible is filled with life and death, and both curses and blessings. The preacher has the unique position of opening the Holy Bible and preaching whatever he chooses, the Chief Shepherd stated.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson then recounted the biblical occurrence where Jesus went into the Synagogue at Nazareth on the Sabbath Day and read from **Isaiah 61**. This incident is recorded in **St. Luke 4: 16-19**. He explained that Jesus found that particular scripture in Isaiah although the tradition called for the continued reading of the chosen passage.

He then explained that Jesus ended the passage with the segment that stated: *To Preach the Acceptable Year of the Lord*, which ended on a comma. He said that Jesus did not read, *And the day of vengeance of our God*.

The noted theologian explained that Jesus did not read the vengeance portion of the scripture, because he wanted to emphasize God's favor at this point in his ministry.

"Jesus closed the book, because his position was, 'I did not come to execute vengeance. Not at this time...I came to proclaim the acceptable year...or the year of God's favor.' Say what you want to, we are living in the year of God's favor," he proclaimed.

At this point in his message, the Presiding Bishop noted the "favours of God" in his life. In fact he stressed the point that he did not deserve to hold the esteemed Office of Presiding Bishop. "I am not the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ because I deserved it," he boldly declared. "And if you would tell the truth. Many of you.... If you would tell the truth...we are only where we are because of God's favor. And, I heard somebody say 'favor isn't fair.' You ought to look at somebody and say, you are where you are because of God's favor," he continued.

After recalling God's calling and anointing of King David, the Presiding Bishop returned to the point where Jesus closed the book, after reading the passage from the **61 Chapter of Isaiah**.

He then made a profound application to the clergy in the audience. "Jesus closed the book, and gave it back to the minister. Now, preachers we've got a closed book," the Presiding Bishop observed. "And it is up to you. You can open it, and preach curses and damnation; and folk come to church miserable, and leave feeling worse – and then you wonder why they don't want to come back. Or you can open it; and find that the Spirit of the Lord is at work to bless, to heal, and to deliver his people. You've got a close book in your hand, and you can open it, and preach that

which you're led," he continued.

The Presiding Bishop added that Jesus chose to preach a blessed and positive Word. He noted that the word Gospel itself means, *Good News*. Our Chief Apostle expounded that point by emphasizing how people who have been bound by drug addiction, lying, homosexuality, and mental illness – have all been delivered through the preaching of the *Good News of the Gospel*.

"The Gospel is good news," he proclaimed. "To let you know, that it doesn't matter what kind of chains have you bound; you can be set free. In Jesus Christ, there is freedom from all bondage," he emphatically stated.

In fact, Jesus initiated his earthly ministry by expounding on the blessings of God, the Presiding Bishop recalled. He noted that Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* covers three chapters (**St. Matthew 5-7**), and it starts with the *Beatitudes*, which give the prerequisite for God's blessings.

At this point in his message, the Presiding Bishop discussed the importance of knowing the purpose of God's Word and the teachings of Christ. He noted the importance of being filled with the Holy Ghost in being able to understand the "things of God."

"When you are filled with His spirit, then, you can understand what God is saying to the Church," he explained. "Jesus taught a message that was designed to bless," he continued.

Then, the Presiding Bishop shared the purpose of his signature scripture, **Psalms 120-b**:

The blessings of the Lord be upon you: we bless you in the name of the Lord. Our illustrious leader said he uses this scripture in closing his response letters to viewers of his national telecast and in other correspondence, because he wants to build people up in the Lord, and declare His blessings.

"We spend too much time downing one another," the Presiding Bishop declared. "We spend too much time believing that our uprise depends on somebody else's downfall. If we would take the time to decree the blessings of God upon one another... You would be surprised that if you really took the time to thank God for somebody else's blessing; it would move you closer to your blessing," he continued.

In discussing the text, he noted that Balak was the King of Moab. Balaam, he explained was referred to as being both a prophet and soothsayer. Nonetheless, Balak was a gifted man, and the King of Moab knew of his gift, the Presiding Bishop observed.

Balak had a problem with the nation of Israel – a nation

"Say what
you want
to, we are
living in
the year of
God's
favor," he
proclaimed.

that had recently been delivered from more than 400 years of slavery in Egypt, was now camped out on the borders of his country, the Presiding Bishop explained. He added that Israel had chosen not to oppose Edom because the country was of Esau's lineage, so they went another way. He then noted how Moses and the nation of Israel did fight King Sihon and the Amorites, whom they defeated and gained possession of their land. "When God has said that you're bless, people who try to stop your blessing have to be extremely careful," he declared.

Then, the Presiding Bishop enlightened the congregation by proclaiming that if the anointing of God is upon an individual's life, others have to be careful of how they treat the anointed individual.

At this point, he recounted how the nation of Israel defeated Bashan before moving on into Edom. Og, a giant who stood at least 12 ft, was king of Bashan. The Presiding Bishop noted that Og was so mammoth, that Goliath was a baby giant in comparison.

At this point the Presiding Bishop emphasized that the presence and favor of God rested so heavily upon the children of Israel that they killed the fearsome giant Og, destroyed his enormous army, and took their land.

"I am trying to tell you that when you have the favor of God, giants can't stop you," Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson proclaimed.

The conquests made it possible for Israel to divide the new territories between three and a half tribes. He taught how the nation of Israel was not to be blessed with the promised inheritance until reaching west of the Jordan River, but the opposition made it possible for them to secure possessions on the east side of Jordan.

"When God's favor is on you, there is some that He brings into their blessing on the east side, while the sun is rising. I've seen young folk step into positions and wonder how did they get there? God said 'I decided to give them an east side blessing.' Then I look around, and some people look like they've missed it forever...I want to say to you seniors, you may not have gotten your blessing on the east side. Oh, I am here to tell you the sun hasn't gone down yet, God has your blessing on the west, facing the setting sun," he declared.

The Presiding Bishop then noted how Balak wanted to use a spiritual approach to stopping the nation of Israel. In fact, he wanted Balaam to cast an evil spell on Israel. Once approached, Balaam prayed to God - and received his answer, no!

He then recalled how the offer of wealth caused Balaam to pray again. God had said no, but the lure of money caused him to disregard God's command. Thus, Balaam started his journey to curse Israel, and encountered God's Death

Angel.

It was then that the jackass spoke to Balaam and alerted him of the impending danger. To that point, he was oblivious to the fact that the evasive movements of the jackass had saved his life, the Presiding Bishop stated.

He then noted how so many people are praying for God's permission to be married to unbelievers, when the Bible clearly declares 'not to be unequally yoked.' The Presiding Bishop also proclaimed that it is a sad commentary when an animal can see the judgment of God, but an ordained clergyman cannot. He denounced the acceptance of or silence to same sex marriages by some Christian denominations. It is the minister's responsibility to cry out against all unrighteousness, the Presiding Bishop declared.

"If you go back and read history, you will find that every nation that spit in God's face, deciding that even though God said 'male and female.' We can now say, 'male and male female and female.' But the Bible says, the wicked shall be turned into hell.. E-V-E-R-Y N-A-T-I-O-N that forgets God," declared Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who now was in his full preaching mode.

He referred back to the text, when Balaam showed Balak the various segments of Israel - for the purpose of finding a weak link. He finally realized that Israel was just, blessed.

"I want you to know that this is God's desire for his people. He wants you to be blessed in every phase of your life," he proclaimed.

Then the Presiding Bishop preached the audience to its feet as he quoted Deuteronomy 28. "You are just blessed everywhere. I wish you would tell somebody, God said it, and I am going to claim it. I am blessed in every phase of my life. B-L-E-S-S-E-D and the devils in hell can't take it back," he continued.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson concluded his sermon by telling the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ, God's blessings are indeed upon them. He stated that just like Balaam could not reverse the blessings of God on the nation of Israel, the devil cannot take away the blessings that have been bestowed upon them.

The Presiding Bishop noted that Israel can trace its blessing to Abraham, and Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason evoked the favors and blessings of God upon the Church Of God In Christ.

Yes, the saints departed the Lord's Day Worship celebration from four different venues keenly aware that they are highly favored and blessed of God. They were also cognizant of the fact that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson has the blessings of God upon his life. This insightful leader clearly has a vision to keep the Church Of God In Christ in the forefront of proclaiming to the world God's call to holiness and a sanctified lifestyle.

2004 International Holy Convocation Women's Day Service

By Glenda Williams Goodson

While debates rage on the role of women in society, in many ways the Church Of God In Christ is ahead of the curve owing to Bishop C.H. Mason progressive leadership and a history of women's ministries dating to the church's inception. Conversely, at a time when old rules don't apply, Fridays of the International Holy Convocation find the women of the Church Of God In Christ, beautifully arrayed in white, joining together for a day of solidarity as they bond together and recharge to return to their ministries. Evangelist Deola Wells-Jackson, Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction, gave a powerful Morning Manna message, The Certainty of God's Word, and got the day off to a good start.

The Department of Women is a strategically organized group. Staff members work untiringly to make each minute count on this day affluent with excellence. The program had to be arranged, Mother Rivers had to go before the Lord for a message for her daughters, and Supervisors had to be installed, in the midst of a minutia of details. International Marshal and Program Chairperson Barbara McCoo Lewis carried out her duties with her usual panache. "I came physically challenged but the Lord touched me," she cried.

Mother Diane Bogan, Personal Adjutant to Mother Rivers says "Mothers Rivers is a people's person... The teens and children try to get to her... And because Mother Rivers desired to install the Supervisors in Memphis there are certain things we have to do and have prepared for them." A woman of excellence, Mother Bogan gives clear and concise instructions to keep the agenda moving forward. "The Supervisors are excited to be coming to Memphis... with families, friends and members across the country here to give them our love and support," she said. If the Supervisors don't know quite what to expect Mother

Mother Willie Mae Rivers Charges Women to Bond in the Spirit of Peace

Rivers charges them corporately to transform their area of influence by working peaceably with their leader to the glory of God. She deftly manages a personal word for each as she presents them with their cross (symbolizing identity with Christ), stole (symbolizing the office), and cap (symbolizing the authority as administrative head of the Department of Women). All three articles represent service not superiority. "I pray that when I get a message from you and your Bishop it will be good news and that all is well," she said.



The new Supervisors were grateful to God for an opportunity for further service. "I feel that to God be the glory forever," said Supervisor Marilyn Cross. Mother Vanessa Gatlin agreed that "it is an awesome feeling and I am humbled to serve."

Mother Rivers recognized the Assistant Jurisdictional Supervisors and national workers.

Mother Emily Bibby is amazing. She has been saved in the Church Of God In Christ for 72 years and declares she hasn't run out of steam. "Three weeks ago the enemy threw me down in my own house. I told God, I'm hopping but I'm not stopping," she said to the appreciative laughter of the audience.

Mother Louise Patterson also greeted the women. "The enemy is trying to destroy but the Lord told me to tell you that it's going to be all right," she proclaimed. Then, Mother Patterson recounted how her brother had to have his leg amputated but the Lord is brining the family out. "I stand before you today healed of rheumatoid arthritis."

Before Assistant International Supervisor Mother Elizabeth Nash introduced Mother Rivers, Mother Pearl Page of the Sewing Circle made a special gift presentation

to Mother Rivers. With a strong voice Mother Rivers approached the podium singing, Jesus I'll Never Forget. She thanked God for the Mother Lizzie Robinson who started off the women with prayer. "Jeremiah said to call...wail for the conditions of the church." Mother Rivers said that we are living in an age where we don't have peace as we once knew it. "Thank God for peace of Jesus...God has chosen us to be Christ's representatives on earth and every believer should have peace within." She drew laughter by stating that while the enemy causes some to give a person a piece of their mind we all need all of our minds. "Sometimes for peace's sake you have to hold your peace (because) people are watching you...watching your attitude."

She urged her daughters to learn the way of the Lord, even after receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. "Let us bond together in prayer and Bible study," she said.

On Friday night the Women's Chorus sang a medley of songs led by Evangelist Bettye Nelson which included Sweet Home; Come Over Here, (The Table is Spread); I Get Joy When I Think About What He's Done; and From the Rising of the Sun. There were many testimonies of God's healing power. Evangelist Maria Gardner Thomas praised God because "In April they took a bone out of my back. They told my husband that I would be paralyzed and placed four long screws in my back. I thank God I can walk!" Mother Ellen Pettigrew of Ohio was one of 12 children and was saved January 10, 1937. She too testified of God's healing power, "I thought I was going on to glory but the Lord touched my body. I went to the doctor and the Lord saved me. I could hardly breathe but the Lord spoke to me and said He was my breath. If God never heals me again I know He is able."

The women of the Church Of God In Christ set the stage for victory with a foundation that includes a strong prayer life. They hail from every station in life and effectively minister in whatever area God has placed them. Mother Minnie Ruth Moore (Assistant to Mother Madge Cyars) has ministered in the jail ministry since 1971. "I teach the Bible in Genesee County Jail in Flint, Michigan. I was saved, baptized and filled at 18 and I've been coming (to Memphis) every since. Another COGIC woman known for integrity and honesty is Judge Mablean

Ephraim, star of the famously popular television show, Divorce Court. "As a child I did not come to the convocation because I thought it was for old people," she said as the audience responded with laughter. She gave glory to God for His goodness toward her. "Sometimes God blesses us because it proves (that He can do anything)," she said and added, "I was born one of nine children in Hazelhurst, Mississippi and raised in (Los Angeles') South Central ghetto." Stating that it is nothing but God's glory that the show is a success with all walks of individuals she declared, "I don't care what the world does; we are going to do it God's way. We must do it God's way. I know for certain this job is a mission for me. The cases are real. The stories that you hear are true. Understand and be concerned about the condition of society. I'm trying to do ministry...My prayer daily before the show 'God give me the wisdom for this show'." Judge Ephraim ended by urging all saints to take a stand for right and righteousness and asked the saints to "Pray for me that God will keep me humble, but give me the boldness to continue to stand for right."

The women of the Church Of God In Christ will gather in



Sisters at worship

Atlanta, Georgia May 30 – June 3, 2005 for the 55th Annual Women's International Convention/Crusade. Make plans to attend these Spirit filled and informative services today!

Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry

Church Of God In Christ Annual Leadership Conference
Atlanta, GA

During the term of Presiding Bishop L. H. Ford a committee was appointed by the General Assembly Chairman, Bishop Frank J. Ellis on women in ministry. The General Assembly is the doctrine expressing and law making body of the Church Of God In Christ and is therefore the only body that can change the rules or determine that our present position will remain in tact. This question is continually brought to the attention of the Presiding Bishop; therefore, I would like to know where the saints of our great church stand on this issue. Please answer the following as indicated and return this inquiry to the Presiding Bishop.

1. How long have you been a member of the Church Of God In Christ ? _____

2. Male ☐ Female ☐

3. What is your age range? (circle one category)

Less than 21

22-30

31-45

46-65

Above 65

4. What position do you hold?

Bishop ☐ Superintendent ☐ Pastor ☐ Elder without charge ☐

Licensed or Unlicensed Minister ☐ Male laity ☐

Supervisor ☐ District Missionary ☐ Evangelist ☐

Deaconess Missionary ☐ Aspiring Missionary ☐ Female Laity ☐

5. I believe The Church should remain as it started – no ordination of women and no women pastors. ☐

I believe that we should ordain women. ☐

I believe women should be free to pastor in the Church Of God In Christ. ☐

6. Comments

7. Are your beliefs based on the Holy Scriptures? Yes ☐ No ☐

List the scriptures which are the foundation for your beliefs. _____

Leviticus 23:2 - Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.

General Highlights and Observations from the 97th International Holy Convocation

By Glenda Williams Goodson

Memphis, Tennessee – The task of the writer is to describe how people behave. The Church of God In Christ has emerged as the preeminent Holiness-Pentecostal body in the United States. The year 2004 marked the 97th time that leaders, saints and friends of the Church Of God In Christ came together with a holy dignity to first reaffirm their love for Christ and bond to carry out the good traditions of their spiritual heritage as they return to carry the message of holiness to the world.

COGIC has numerous strengths – powerful preaching ministries, worldwide missions initiatives, strong women's ministries and conferences, an emerging body of scholar-

venerable Dr. Oliver Haney is a must attend. Each year his team (Supt. James Whitehead, Pastor Fredric Grant, Dr. Goldie Wells, Evangelist Sarah Gooch, Elder Quintin Robertson, Mrs. Natasha Briscoe and Miss Sherilyn Chandler) coordinates more than 30 classes facilitated by well-prepared training leaders.

Courses offered range from Department and Auxiliary workshops (International Youth Department, International District Missionary Unit, COGIC Chaplaincy, International Sunday School) to special offerings (Marriage and Family, Biblical Blackness, COGIC Scholars, COGIC Visa Debit Card, Making Peace with



The Flags on display at Historic Mason Temple, reflect the fact that COGIC is indeed an international body

ship, rich heritage of anointed singing and music ministries – but the organization was birthed through prayer.

Delegates count on practical, well-balanced spiritual diets at the International Holy Convocation while experiencing fellowship with like believers. In the 2004 election year hundreds of pamphlets and brochures were distributed touting the worthiness of candidates from General Board members to Trustees. Delegates also enjoyed tremendous preaching, teaching, anointed singing, enjoyable shopping experiences and a general camaraderie as old friends from across the nation and world greeted and caught up with one another.

The O.T. Jones Memorial Education Institute led by the

Your Past) to Doctrine and History (COGIC History, COGIC Women's History).

Institute keynote speaker Supt. Ron Hill of California, expanded upon the convocation's theme, Let the Peace of God Continue. Preaching from Hebrew 12:15 with focus on The Power of Love and Unity he proclaimed: "Team work makes the dream work. When you don't have a healthy relationship with people you die bound.

Supt. Hill recalled how the Lord called him to establish Love and Unity COGIC in 1981, with five members and very meager resources, but has blessed the church to grow to more than 1,500 members. The personable pastor said

that many times when you see more empty pews than those that are full – this is an indication that there is a divisive spirit within the congregation. He urged the saints to remember that love draws people, but hate repels them.

The C.H. Mason Memorial Choir under the direction of Professor Iris Stevenson is always a powerful instrument to usher in worship, and this year was no exception. As they sang during the morning worship I feel like praising Him pioneer foreign missionary Pearl Page Brown danced in the aisle like a woman half her age!

Testimonies of healing rang throughout the meeting. Morning moderator Bishop Ted Thomas testified that he had lung cancer in 1988 but during the Women's Convention in Miami Beach God healed him. This distinguished jurisdictional prelate humbly exclaimed: "After I ran down the aisle and He healed me, I told the doctor that I was healed. The Lord allowed the doctors to cut me open but when I awakened from surgery, the doctors apologized and said I was strong as an ox. Some people say it comes back, but I was healed of lung cancer and it hasn't come back! They check every year. (His testimony is available on tape or CD.)

The commercial venues displayed booths with campaign material, clothing, jewelry and everything in between. Evangelist Durleen Gunn, Greater Maryland COGIC (Bishop Spann) volunteers at the COGIC Store. "I enjoy working for the church. It's a blessing being able to show various COGIC products," she said while displaying towels, denim shirts, portfolios, bibs and baby caps, and other material embroidered with the COGIC seal. "The store has been open for two years," said Missionary Gayle Barr, who works under the direction of Evangelist Vicki Johnson. "I am proud and honored to volunteer because this is my church," she added.

By Wednesday night more than 3,000 constituents worldwide had logged into the Convocation Services. They heard announcements of meetings, fellowship dinners such as the yearly Women's Department Advisory Board dinner or Bishop Richard White and the Evangelism Department's Annual Prayer Breakfast, and information concerning the General Assembly. The International Holy Convocation was also heard and seen on WHBQ 13 1-3 a.m. and WBBP 1480-AM, the official radio station for the Convocation.

The resounding voice of gospel diva Elbernita "Twinkie"

Clark is known around the country and the world. As she led the C.H. Mason Memorial Choir in I Found Jesus and I'm Glad before General Board Member Bishop Nathaniel Wells preached the evening message. Bishop Wells offered up a heartfelt prayer. "Help us feel the anointing," he asked. "Give us souls. Let a backslider be reclaimed...and the Saints be refreshed." The moving supplication was a precursor to a dynamic message.

Bishop Wells followed the format established by Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, and rendered a song in the form of an old COGIC hymn. After he sang, Lord Keep Me with a Mind Stayed on Jesus, Bishop Wells observed: "I have been in this church all of my natural life. This is the first time in all of my life that I have seen our church with so much peace and I think it comes from the leader," he said to a round of applause.

Bishop Wells spoke from the theme, The Power of a Resurrected Life. He shared his own testimony how God saved him, and gave him a resurrected life out of the grave of a rock-and-roll career, and spared him from the tragedy that often follows that lifestyle. "When the Lord resurrected me I looked at my hands...I had hands to do different things," he recalled. He encouraged the ministers and layman alike to seek a lifestyle that reflects a resurrected life. This includes knowing how to encourage yourself. He referred to Proverbs 16:7 – When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him, and I John 3:22 – And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

"You can't...get it with jokes and politics. It's the anointing that destroys the yokes," he proclaimed. "The Word cleans up your mind. We've got to live this life we're singing about."



Prayer Leaders, Evangelist Frances Kelley and Supt. Amos F. Kemper III

Thursday the O.T. Jones Institute speaker was Evangelist Romanetha Stallworth of Kentucky. She spoke from the theme, Peace. "Stop thinking on the problem, and give it to Him," she said. She encouraged the saints to put the Word of God into effect in every aspect of their lives. Evangelist Stallworth noted the importance of knowing how to wage spiritual warfare. "The greatest warfare is in your mind," she said. "You have to wage spiritual warfare in your mind," she continued while referring to Romans 16:20, and Rev. 21:8. After the message the Spirit moved

so while Dr. Oliver Haney sang, The Lord Delivered Me, he danced and danced.

Bishop A. LaDell Thomas presided over Thursday's noon service. He sang Thou Carest Lord then Sweet Jesus. Then, he gave the following testimony. "On January 9, 1972 I had a massive heart attack. The paramedics said it was all over but the Lord delivered me.

To the delight of old and young alike many songs that brought the pioneering saints through hard trials were sung throughout the convocation. Recording Artist Shun Pace and the C.H. Mason Memorial Choir sang a medley including Put Your Time In (Payday) is Coming) The Bible is Right, I Believe I'll Run On, Traveling Shoes and Saved by His Power Divine.

Before General Board Member Bishop G. McKinney preached on the subject, A Fresh Look at Marriage and Family God's Way, his son, Greg, gave the sermonic selection which he wrote - Holy is the Lord.

Bishop McKinney, a long time and noted Marriage and Family Therapist traveled to Washington DC for the Marriage Amendment to the Constitution and explained that some have been caught up with the world's pattern of thinking. "No one would call together pedophiles to rewrite laws of child abuse, pyromaniacs to write fire policy or thieves for property law. Marriage is what God says it is. According to the Bible marriage is a union between a man and a woman, he said, while making reference to Genesis 2:21-25.

The audience listened attentively as he explained that God gave the gift of sexuality for procreation, communication and recreation bringing laughter when he said it was so enjoyable because it brings so much joy it causes you to speak in new languages. "Marriage between a man and man or woman and woman is not honorable. According to Hebrews 13:14 marriage between a woman and man is honorable." He concluded by stating that families should play together, encourage people to eat together and pray together.

At the six o'clock hour on Thursday evening convocation goes anticipate the Missions Hour with Missions President Bishop C.L. Moody. Our distinguished Missions leader noted that COGIC is indeed an international church.

"Everybody who comes to us is not impoverished," he said referring to Mark 13:13. "We are going as an organization to represent Jesus Christ. I want to represent the church with dignity," he continued.

Approximately 50 to 60 foreign delegates from around the world updated the saints on conditions in their countries. They urged the saints to visit their brothers and sisters in faraway lands. "You don't have to be afraid to go into the

foreign field if you have the Word of God. Some of you need to take some of your vacation money and travel to the foreign fields. People need to be trained in the policy of COGIC," he said.

Chaplain V. Cromartie is an example of a woman who has fallen in love with missions work. Having worked in Ghana for four years she says, "I felt in my heart that we needed a church for the refugees and began giving my personal money. The following year Bishop Moody wrote and said I'm going to give you a check to build a church in Ghana."

The foreign work has need of instruments, Sunday School books, tuition and other needs. Please contact Bishop Moody's office to help.

After the Missions program Bishop P.A. Brooks presiding, sang, How Much I Love the King. He invited all saints to worship together. Elder Kenneth Lockhart of Chicago was a prophet on fire as he brought the Word of God in the Inspirational message with the subject I'm in the Fire with Jesus and I'm Coming Out with a Promotion, Daniel 3:1-16; Job 23:10. Bishop Brooks has a wonderful, healing gift of song, and when he sang God Is Able to Deliver you from

the Fire, after the message- the entire house went up.

To the delight of the audience, Mom Winans, matriarch of the Winans' family and music dynasty sang He'll Understand and Say Well Done. "Fifty-two years ago God saved me in the Church Of God In Christ," she said.

The Church Of God In Christ has built a reputation in Memphis as a true business partner but more importantly a spiritual compass. That was the observation of the honorable Dr. W.W. Herenton, Mayor City of Memphis. "I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Mayor of your Jerusalem it is an honor to greet you to Memphis as I've done for thirteen years. I truly believe God is keeping

Bishop McKinney, a long time and noted Marriage and Family Therapist traveled to Washington DC for the Marriage Amendment to the Constitution and explained that some have been caught up with the world's pattern of thinking. "No one would call together pedophiles to rewrite laws of child abuse, pyromaniacs to write fire policy or thieves for property law."

watch over our city. I have felt the Holy Spirit under this place. I want the Presiding Bishop to know that it's with great pleasure to work with him in partnership," said his honor, the Mayor.

Bishop Jerry Macklin manages to convey a sense of greatness in whatever task he is assigned. As he ministered to the Lord in collecting the nightly financial sacrifice, he asked: "How many know what a defining moment is?" Then, the congregants shouted and danced while giving. Wave after wave of the Holy Ghost's presence swept The Pyramid Arena so that as General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall attempted to announce upcoming convocation events the audience danced sans music. So much so that Bishop P.A. Brooks danced then declared, "It's marvelous! There are those who lambaste the church but I'm glad for fundamental holiness. I'm glad we haven't forgotten our roots!"

God used Elder Sherman Allen of Fort Worth, Texas tremendously in the main service for the evening. His fiery message, It's Just a Shadow – Exodus 33:22-23; Acts 5:12, was thought provoking.

Friday is Women's Day during the convocation and Mother Willie Mae Rivers brought a sound word to the women of the Church. At the end of the long day she was satisfied that everyone had a wonderful time. (See accompanying article)

On Friday night the presiding officer General Board Member Bishop Roy Winbush stated, "We have every reason in the world to give God thanks for our coming together." Before Praise Team leader Judith McAlister led congregants in My Help is in the Name of the Lord and What a Mighty God We Serve she gave her testimony. "In March I underwent back surgery. When I awoke my right leg was paralyzed. I promised the Lord I would do whatever I can to give Him some praise," she said as the Holy Spirit over showered her move through the auditorium.

Chief of Staff Bishop Jerry Maynard has a unique way of doing things. "My assignment is one of pleasure, that is worshipping the Lord in giving," he said. Bishop Maynard asked all of the officials on the platform to join him in giving \$97 – one dollar for each year of the International Holy Convocation. The response was tremendous from both the officials and membership as the choir sang, What He's Done for Me.

Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes introduced First Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake stating, "I am eagerly awaiting to hear what God has given

His servant."

After Sister Carolyn White of Los Angeles sang, I Love You Forever With All My Heart, Bishop Blake approached the podium, singing Your Grace and Mercy. In his message, Don't Linger on the Brink of Your Blessing, II Kings 7:10 he compared the plight of the ancient Israelite with believers today.

"We live in the most prosperous place and time in history (but we too) can be driven to desperation," he said and explained that whatever the circumstance believers should wait on God. "Should I wait for God any longer?" he asked rhetorically, "Yes, continue to wait. In most cases there is nothing you can do but wait. We should wait on God because what's worthy is in God. When we do something on our own we are destined to fail."

He challenged the saints to be sober in striving to accomplish lofty goals. "Skepticism and negativity are detrimental," he observed. Bishop Blake added that sometimes it is good to evaluate your behavior.

"COGIC we're looking good. But if we're looking good and not impacting our community we're not doing well," he said. Then, he encouraged the saints to think in terms of greatness. He said we must be open to infinite possibilities.

Bishop Blake concluded his enlightening presentation by noting that our human walk always tries to stop in a place inferior to what God provides for us.

The king focused on his own mind and knowledge but God wants believers to rely on Him. The following are four things that God wants to impart with the believer: (1) The Lord wants you to let Him give you a dream. Walk toward your dream by faith. Joseph had a dream. As long as he had that dream he could not die. He kept seeing until he saw it. (2) Get you a good counselor and follow that advice. (3) Remember the Word of God. (4) Ignore the doubters

Saturday is a busy day at the International Holy Convocation beginning with early morning breakfast for national departments and auxiliaries to fellowship. Barbara Williams a financial consultant in Little Rock said it was good to get away. "The Evangelist breakfast was wonderful and the speaker from Chicago dynamite. I enjoyed Maria Gardner Thomas, who gave her healing testimony."

The children and youth pour into Memphis toward the weekend and by Saturday the invasion is complete. At noon in the Cook Convention Center International YPWW Chairlady Evangelist Joyce Rodgers presided over Youth Church. Bridget Wright of Memphis led by the

Friday is Women's Day during the convocation and Mother Willie Mae Rivers brought a sound word to the women of the Church.

Praise team with the sincerity of a seasoned worship leader but with the vitality of her youth in Come and Bless the Lord With Me and Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. Some of the talented featured artists were Chosen Ones from Peoria, Illinois, the Liturgical Praise Dancers of Virginia Beach and Transformed, a mine ministry from Albany. And after Elder Marcus Godson preached It's Already Done, Psalms 37:13, Pastor Timothy Johnson of Little Rock reminisced, "I remember those days!"

At historic Mason Temple it was Sunshine Band and Purity Class Hour with Dr. Lytia Howard and Mother Thelma Cotton presiding. The Church Of God In Christ has some of the best-trained children in Christendom and among the fourteen jurisdictions represented children like those in the Fifth Illinois Western Jurisdiction displayed many God given talents. Big Sister Sunshine Rochelle Smith of Fair Haven COGIC was very proud of her Sunbeams and the unselfish assistance of the saints of that Jurisdiction. "The Sunshine Band (thirteen praise dancers and others) worked hard to pay their own way on this trip," she said. Getting ready to perform Onjale Graham and Olivia Leonard were nervous but excited. Mother Willie Mae Rivers and members of the Department of Executive staff stopped to encourage the work of the children. About 500 children included in the Sunshine Band Recording Choir sang My God is Worthy to be Praised. Supervisor Beatrice Collins of Indiana Third Jurisdiction had a good report to give her Bishop and Department of Women when two year old Aaron Jones of Indiana Third Jurisdiction brought the house down when he told the crowd to exclaimed "Hallelujah" after singing his number. Observing the talent around seventy-five Puritans in their official colors of parrot blue and white as they sang Sing of His Mercy and Kindness. Mother Thelma Cotton said, "The Puritans are doing really well and we have several new Jurisdictions participating." After singing Believe thirteen-year-old Jeanette Smith from the Little Bethel COGIC in St. Louis said, "When I came here I was happy and excited to be here."

National Purity Bible Bowl winners were announced as follows: Dexter Lewis 3rd Place – Alabama First, Bishop O.L. Meadows, Supervisor Mother Mattie Taylor; Crystal Wright 2nd place – Tennessee Headquarters, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr.; Rashana Jones 1st place Alabama First. Looking on, Supervisor Mary Welch of California stated, "I don't have children here this year but wanted to come and support." Dr. Lytia Howard encourages Jurisdictions to bring more children. "We're needing some help and support in the Sunshine Band and Purity Hour...Each saint can support with time, talent, finances and prayers," she said.

On Saturday night, Bishop Paul S. Morton of the Full Gospel Baptist Association and Bishop Marvin Winans of the Perfecting Body Church ministered through music as only they can. The speaker of the hour, COGIC Men's

Conference Director Bishop Darrell Hines preached a soul cleansing message entitled, *I Forgive You from Luke 17 and Luke 23*. Elder Burton D. Clemmons saved under the ministry of prayer warrior Mother Elsie Shaw and who has a special love for the church -- has brought busloads to the Convocation for 20 years to hear bonding words such as Bishop Hines' message. "I bring them to Memphis each year so that the people can see the church in a different light. It opens their eyes to the local church's potential. I've brought about 800 people to Memphis." Joanne Conner of Milwaukee and Mary Lovelace agreed. "I came to Memphis to be enriched to go higher," she said.

Bleary-eyed saints, quietly waited to enter The Pyramid Arena for the early morning Sunday School session (and be assured of seats for the service) woke up as the Sunday School processional marched in singing. Throughout the International Holy Convocation testimonies of God's healing power abounded and Sunday morning was no exception. The Elder who served as the facilitator testified that an accident left his back broken in five places. "The physicians said I wouldn't walk in maybe two years after surgery, but God blessed me to walk in three months," he shouted. International Superintendent Elder Alton Gatlin has brought the Sunday School to new plateaus. The Department's Second printing of Your Sunday School Can Grow had brisk sales.

During the Sunday School service Lt. Col. David Sanger from the Pentagon recognized soldiers, especially Christians, who scale the dangers of war for our nation and church. He requested that anyone who had loves one serving in Iran, Iraq or other war torn countries to stand. "When we see someone (of the COGIC) we as chaplains serve them," he said before praying for Bishop O.T. Jones Jr.'s son who is a pilot going into Iraq and thousands of others who brave the unsettling reality of war. Dr. Vernard Johnson and the orchestra played, Our God is an Awesome God, while the audience stood in respect for our men and women in the military. Then, the Lord's Day service began with the Apostolic Processional. (Please see article on Lord's Day)

Sunday night, General Board Member Bishop Wilbur Wyatt Hamilton delivered the Word of God. The Pyramid audience stood as he expounded on God's call to holiness.

The sacred but colorful Holy Communion Service concluded the convocation, with the message being preached by Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes. His seasoned teaching was filled with vivid descriptions of The Towel of Jesus inspired hearts to emulate the humility and love of Jesus Christ. Before Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson ministered the Lord's Supper to the General Board members he stated that the higher the position in the ecclesiastical hierarchy one has, it simply means that individual's towel is larger in order to serve many others in humility.

MEN'S CONFERENCE AT 97TH INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION

Brothers of COGIC are given the Charge to Lead the Way in Restoring the
Nation's Black Men to their Rightful Place

Men from every segment of the Church Of God In Christ packed Historic Mason Temple Friday, November 12, for the Men's Conference ministry worship celebration at the 97th International Holy Convocation. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson established this innovative ministry after seeing a need to impact the laymen of our Church. It is designed to minister to men spiritually, physically, socially, and economically. Bishop Darrell L. Hines serves as director of the national ministry and conference. Men Perfecting Men is the conference's motto.

This awesome setting personified the joy of brotherhood that David describes in Psalm 133. Men who ranged in rank from General Board member, to member of the Usher Board, were focused on hearing a word that would give them insight on how to fully operate in the authority that God has given them as males.

Bishop Hines commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his anointed and visionary leadership. He noted that those characteristics of leadership are very much manifested in the National Men's Conference and ministry. Then, he announced that the Fourth Annual Men's Conference will be held May 12-14, in Detroit. The Men's Conference is designed as a time of information and inspiration – and each year it has grown both numerically and spiritually, he observed. For registration and other information you may call, (414) 760-2332.

Later, First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake came forward to present our Chief Apostle. In his remarks, Bishop Blake noted events like the Holy Convocation Men's Conference worship celebration and the upcoming Fourth Annual National Men's Conference provide an opportunity for the men of COGIC to come together and, "strategize under the anointing of the Holy Ghost." This strategy is needed to enable Black men to reach their potential "beyond imagination," in restoring our families and communities, he said.

"Black folks are not at the top of anybody's priority list," Bishop Blake observed. "No government no major institution in our nation or in the world has us at the top of the list. We're not going to be at the top of the list, until we put ourselves at the top of the list," he continued.

Bishop Blake added that he believes God is going to use the men's ministry to revolutionize the lives of men, the church, and families. He noted that this spiritual revolution will allow COGIC to have a greater impact on the world.

In introducing Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Bishop Blake described our leader as, "a man's man." He added that the Presiding Bishop is an accomplished outdoorsman and fisherman. The spirit of the fisherman is reflected in the Presiding Bishop's ministry – for he is always seeking ways to win souls for Christ, Bishop Blake said.

After pausing to view the audience, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson observed how pleasant it was to see the men of

COGIC coming together for the purpose of being ministered to in that area that relates to their manhood. The Presiding Bishop noted that he initiated the Men's Conference as a vehicle to involve men in the International Holy Convocation activities who were not ordained elders or licensed ministers.

"I saw so many different ministries that were aimed at first of all, woman, and then men," the Presiding Bishop recalled. "I thought about how we were structured here in the Church Of God In Christ. There is always something for the ordained clergy to do, but we've got so many men who are not ordained. Consequently, I felt it necessary for us to initiate separate and distinct from this coincidental meeting during the Convocation a purposeful Men's Conference," he continued.

Hundreds of Black men have
been saved, reclaimed, or
refreshed as a direct result
from attending the various
workshops and seminars that
are aimed at having them
become the men that God is
calling for them to be.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson then recalled how God has moved mightily at the Annual Men's Conference. He stated that hundreds of Black men have been saved, reclaimed, or refreshed as a direct result from attending the various workshops and seminars that are aimed at having them become the men that God is calling for them to be.

"We saw some tough Simon Peter type men breakdown and cry under the anointing and the very presence of God," the Presiding Bishop reminisced and then quickly added: "Because when all is said and done this world is never going to be turned right-side-up until the men take their place. We praise God for the great women who have used their ingenuity to raise children where there was no man presence in the house. Sometimes the mistake is made of saying 'she has been father and mother.' But I've got news for you; nobody can be a father, but a man. And when the man is not there, there is a strong missing link." Then, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson referred to the various crime statistics that show in America, there are more Black men who are incarcerated than those who are enrolled in college. He noted the appointment of Bishop Lorenzo Kelly, Jurisdictional Prelate for South Dakota, as Director of the National Prison Ministry for the Church Of God In Christ. The Presiding Bishop said he is giving Bishop Kelly the assignment to work with the National Men's Ministry in developing a rehabilitation component aimed at Black men who are incarcerated.

He said this component is needed so that the Church Of God In Christ can be, "in the forefront in restoring men to their rightful place." The Presiding Bishop then noted that how throughout Christendom the Church Of God In Christ is highly respected as the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. He reflected on the rich heritage of our Church and the legacy of our Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason.

"Just like we were in the forefront 100 years ago of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost....and the Church Of God In Christ is the flagship of the Pentecostal experience; we also are going to have to get into the forefront of rehabilitation," the Presiding Bishop said. "Some of these fellas go to prison and they are ten times worst when they come out. But we're going to have put this Holy Ghost that has changed our lives, into a systematic method, so that the Church Of God In Christ, not only just in our churches, but even behind the prison bars will be the dynamic moving force that will convert men and send them back to their families where they can raise their own children and love their own wives, and stop trying to be a glamorous lady themselves," he concluded.

The Word of God was delivered by Supt. Drew Sheard of Detroit, who is the new chairman of AIM. He is also the husband of internationally acclaimed Gospel recording artist Karen Clark-Sheard. They are the parents of the history making newcomer in Gospel music, Kierra (KiKi)

Sheard. After he was introduced by his father, Bishop John H. Sheard, his wife rendered the sermonic solo, I Won't Complain.

Supt. Sheard took his text from Ephesians 5:16 – Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. The second phase of his text was found in I Corinthians 13:11 – When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. He spoke from the theme, No More Drama.

In his message, Supt. Sheard stated that all individuals have experienced some kind of drama. The scale of our dramatic experiences depends on the choices that we have made and the people we have associated ourselves with. Due to this drama, we have either lost or mismanaged time, he said.

Supt. Sheard explained that the redemption of time is one of the highest evidences of wisdom, and one of the most powerful proofs of folly is the act of wasting time. He said that there is no substitute for time, because it is a system of measuring duration.

His discussion of the Ephesians portion of the text dealt with the importance of being productive with your use of time. Too often, we waste time in "frivolous activities," he said. The most essential thing a man must be concerned with in spending time is, the salvation of his soul, he continued. Our family should be the next thing that has a high priority on the list of time, he added.

At this point in his sermon, Supt. Sheard began to preach concerning the "enemies of our families." He listed permissiveness as one of the agents that will destroy a family. "It is that permissive attitude that is expressed in the saying 'anything goes'; we must be careful that sexual immorality and perversity is not among us," he emphatically stated.

Supt. Sheard added that God has placed the man in charge of setting and maintaining the moral standards for the family. If God's standard concerning sexual conduct is not upheld by the head of the family, then, a poor example has been set for the children regarding obedience both to God and the parents. Disobedience can lead to promiscuity and other acts of moral depravity, he said.

"My brothers, we must always be cognizant of the fact that parental immorality always undermines parental authority," he said. Supt. Sheard noted that by being a godly example before the children, the parents can effectively teach them how to say no to sexual immorality and permissiveness.

Drugs were the second agent that Supt. Sheard listed as being an enemy to the family. "Drugs are anything that alters the mental and emotional state," he said. Once this

has been done, then, we are more susceptible to temptation, he explained.

Selfishness is another enemy of the family, he said. Often, the husband focuses on the scriptures that call for the wife to respect the husband as the rightful head of the family. Meanwhile, the wife might be attuned to what the scriptures say about the husband loving the wife. This type of self-centered perspective in the family prevents husband and wife from operating in unity, he added.

Supt. Sheard challenged the men to shoulder their responsibilities and allow God to make them into good leaders. He said in a Christian home the husband should love his wife with thoughtfulness and mirror the love and thoughtfulness that Jesus has for the Church.

Then, he said the most important focus for the Christian family can be found in Matthew 6:33 – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. In fact, adherence to this scripture is a key component in redeeming the time, for these are evil days, he continued.

Supt. Sheard addressed some of the social ills that are prevalent in today's society. He said these sin sick conditions require a strong man to help end the drama.

"I believe that the reason that our society is messed up is because men won't standup and take their rightful place as leaders," he declared. "God bless the sisters who are trying with all they know how to raise a boy, but it takes a man to raise a boy into manhood," he added.

Supt. Sheard then discussed the second phase of his text. He placed emphasis on the point that pastors must take a leading role in guiding boys into manhood. He stressed the importance of preaching and living sound doctrine before young, impressionable males. Yes, we must redeem the time and stop the drama.

He closed by referring to the biblical occurrence where Jesus healed the man sick with palsy, and declared unto him: "Arise, take up thy bed..."

"You don't have to lie in the bed of excuses, and you don't have to lie in the bed of shame," he said with impassion. "For, I hear Jesus saying, 'rise, take up your bed and walk.'

You need to understand that you are the head and not the tail, and you're accepted and not rejected you're blessed and not cursed," he continued.

Supt. Sheard preached the men to their feet as he challenged them to serve God and to be involved with holy activities that will lift their families up in righteousness. "No more drama," he declared. "We were created to lift up the name of the Lord...we will serve the Lord, we will lift up a standard of holiness, we will walk in our destiny, we will walk worthy of the anointing that God has put on our lives. Say Yes," the anointed speaker exclaimed! He concluded by telling the men to hold on to God's promises, to be the mature men that Apostle Paul represented in I Corinthians 13, and be resolved that there will be no more drama in their lives.

Supt. Drew Sheard:

"The reason
that our
society is
messed up
is because
men won't
standup and
take their
rightful
place
as leaders."

Quadrennial Election Results

Election Counted (of 1)	1	100.00
Registered Voters - Total	4,127	
Ballots Cast - Total	4,124	
Voter Turnout - Total		99.93
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL BOARD (12)		
	VOTES	PERCENT
Patterson, Gilbert Earl	3,771	8.65
Blake, Charles Edward	3,483	7.99
Haynes, J. Neaul	3,309	7.59
Brooks, Phillip A.	3,172	7.28
Winbush, Roy L.H.	3,139	7.20
Hamilton, W. Wilbert	3,058	7.02
McKinney, Jr., George D.	2,942	6.75
Macklin, Jerry Wayne	2,932	6.73
Wells, Jr. Nathaniel	2,859	6.56
Green, Sr., Samuel L.	2,695	6.18
Anderson, LeRoy R.	1,880	4.31
Owens, Chandler David	1,420	3.26
Wright, Sr., Earl J.	1,070	2.45
Bogan, Sr. Walter Emile	1,057	2.42
Johnson, Martin Luther	886	2.03
Booker, Ocie	775	1.78
Anderson, Sr., Cornelius E.	683	1.57
Marshall, Cody V.	622	1.43
Cohen, Jacob	600	1.38
Smith, Jr., Felton M.	564	1.29
Quick, Norman N.	547	1.25
Bonner, William Haven	521	1.20
Houston, David R.	406	.93
Williams, Sr., George A.	340	.78
Lawson, Juan O.	323	.74
Quillen, Jr., Howard E.	295	.68
Lewis, Sr., Harvey L.	243	.56

	VOTES
OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD 15	
Ford, Charles Mason	3,315 6.24
White, Frank Anthone	3,024 5.69
Porter, Brandon B	2,846 5.36
Patterson, Sr., C.H. Mason	2,755 5.19
Wells, Dickerson L.S.	2,724 5.13
Linzy, Mildred	2,669 5.02
Winbush, Sr., McClendon	2,611 4.91
Macklin-Lowe, Georgia	2,578 4.85
Law, Sylvia H.	2,548 4.80
Green, Sr., Dwight L.	2,497 4.70
Shepherd, Josephus	2,471 4.65
Walls, Sr., Dwight E.	2,459 4.63
Cahoon, William Theophilus	2,092 3.94
Curtis, Frances A.	1,777 3.34
Jones, Walter B.	1,620 3.05
Ivery, Sr., Jerry L.	1,470 2.77
Hogan-Williams, Carole	1,425 2.68
McMurray, Dennis J.	1,108 2.09
Paul, Sam Ram	971 1.83
Johnson, Sr., Jerry E.	960 1.81
Strickland, Sr., Jerome	958 1.80
Clemons, Burton Delano	909 1.71
Dixon, Roy	848 1.60
West, Jerry E.	814 1.53
Perry, Mark I.	768 1.45
Stephen, III, William	604 1.14
Dean, Robert	559 1.05
Conner, E. Charles	554 1.04
Henderson, II, Percy W.	548 1.03
Bates, Gerald Joseph	527 .99
Williams, Carl	499 .94
Frye, Lemon T.	477 .90
Owens, Sr., William G.	460 .87
Veal, Zeno	440 .83
Ferrell, Eugene	242 .46

Quadrennial Election Results

continued

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY BOARD - POSITION 1 and 2 (2)		
	VOTES	PERCENT
Clemons, Joseph	3,104	42.84
Swan, Talbert W.	2,182	30.12
Jenkins, Frederick	1,959	27.04
OFFICE OF THE JUDICIARY BOARD - POSITION 3 (1)		
Jackson, Jr., Thomas	2,639	67.18
Wagoner, Faidest	1,289	32.82Z

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (1)		
	VOTES	PERCENT
Hall, Alfred Z.	3,874	100.00

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL TREASURER (1)		
	VOTES	PERCENT
Lowe, Samuel L.	2,997	75.04
Burns, Darin	997	24.96

OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (1)		
	VOTES	PERCENT
White, Frank O.	3,543	89.09
Mosby, William Edward	434	10.91



PAIN before PAIN stops you.



ALL NATURAL

Queen Karila's
FAST ACTION

MOTHERLAND

AS SEEN ON
TV

BALM GEL PAIN RELIEVER

No Drugs • No Pills • No Shots • No Surgeries • No Side Effects

Instructions:

FOR ARTHRITIS & BACK PAINS ALL CHRONIC ACHES, AND PAINS.

Massage a generous amount directly into affected area until pain completely stops. Apply two times a day for three days, then as needed for pain.

FOR MIGRANE, SINUS & STRESS HEADACHES:

Massage a generous amount into temple and neck until pain completely stops.

FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH BLOOD SUGAR, HIGH CHOLESTEROL, POOR BLOOD CIRCULATION & TO RELIEVE STRESS:

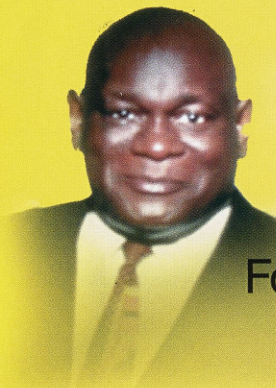
Massage a generous amount into each foot until absorbed.
Massage daily for best results.

FOR ATHLETES FOOT & SKIN IRRITATION:

Massage a generous amount into affected area, repeat treatment two times daily for three days, or until rash is healed.

**100% NATURAL • 100% HERBAL
100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEED**

Order Today
1 for \$25.95 + \$8 S/H
6 For \$100.00 FREE S/H
Save \$63.70



Order Today! Distributors Wanted
For The Distributor Nearest You **1-800-450-6664**

USE CREDIT CARD OR SEND MONEY ORDER

No claim to diagnose, cure, treat, or prevent any disease has been made, implied or intended.

FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS

We're Here for You!

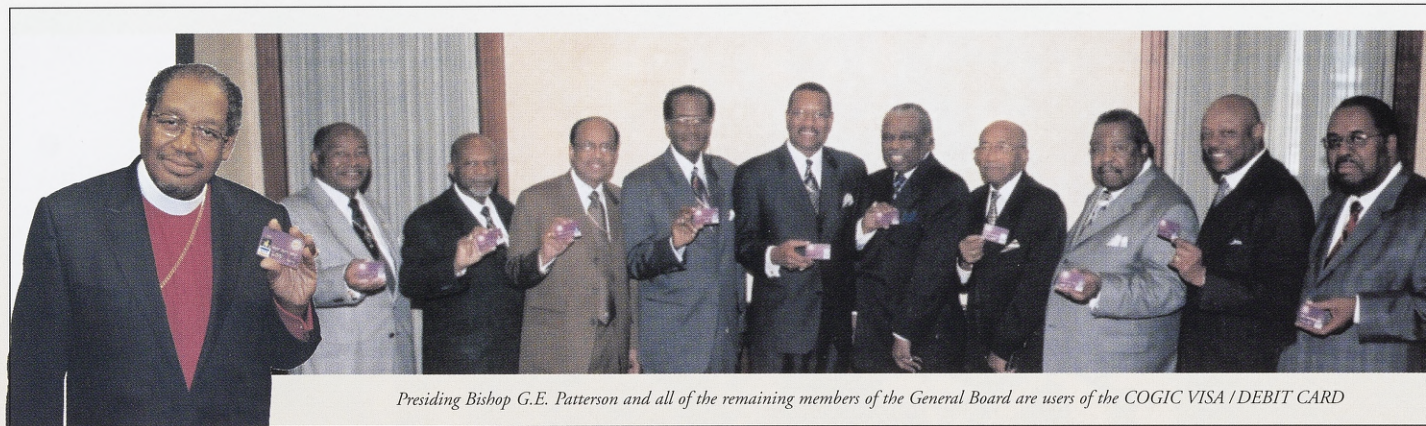
ELDER JAVIER BAILEY

SERVICES YOU
DEPEND ON.

- 501(c)(3)
- NON-PROFIT
CHARTERS
- PROPERTY
TAXES
- PERSONAL
INJURY

THE
Walter Bailey
LAW FIRM

100 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 3002 MEMPHIS, TN 38103 901.575.8702
JAVIERBAILEY@AOL.COM



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and all of the remaining members of the General Board are users of the COGIC VISA / DEBIT CARD

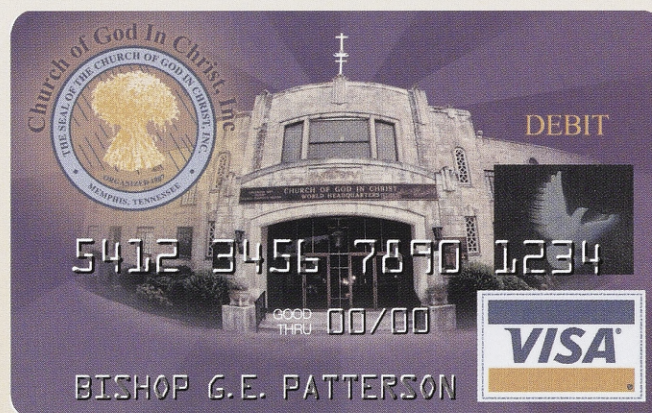
THE COGIC VISA / DEBIT CARD... IS IT IN YOUR WALLET?

THE COGIC VISA/DEBIT CARD PROGRAM; THE MISSION...THE PHILOSOPHY... THE VISION.

As we embark on a new year we are reminded of our long history rich in tradition, honor and strong spiritual unification. While it is imperative to maintain the integrity, practices and beliefs of our church it is also essential to be on the leading edge of progression and growth. Often times we look outside our own Church for various methods to increase finances to handle our ever growing budget. We have many projects on our agenda, including remodeling and improving Mason Temple and our National Headquarters Administrative Facilities, the construction and development of our own hotel, in addition to other land development projects. We also have the needs of our foreign and domestic ministries and of course our local churches and members across the country and around the world.

Sometimes as leaders in our efforts to find solutions and strategies we may not see the obvious, but through the blessings of the Lord we were given a vision we believe has the potential to grant us limitless opportunities.

We realize we don't need to look further than within our own membership. It is long overdue for our church to realize with millions of members spending billions of dollars we clearly have the ability to unify ourselves financially; enabling us to recycle, redistribute and positioning ourselves as an economic asset therefore bringing us purchasing power, benefits, savings and significant dollars back to our church and members.



With this great realization comes the need for all of us to embrace the COGIC Visa/Debit Card Program and to be committed to this historical movement!

With the COGIC Visa/Debit Card we're proud of our very own financial instrument which represents good stewardship principles while sharing abundance economically.

The COGIC Visa/Debit Card has all the benefits of a Visa/Debit card without the interest and debt of credit cards. However, the best part is every time we use our one-of-a-kind COGIC Card we are unifying our financial strength and a percentage of each transaction and service fee goes to our church. Once the expenditures of operating the program are accounted for the majority of the remaining funds are distributed to the local churches. In addition, the National Church, the Jurisdictions and the National Department of Woman share in the distributions as well.

Think about the magnitude of this endeavor. We can take our already existing habit of our everyday spending and by

merely redirecting our method of payment to our COGIC Visa/Debit Card we can generate significant contributions for our church both locally and nationally. Although we are spending over one billion dollars a month collectively none of us are benefiting. So, the question is what if we were? Could we have more funds to meet our budgetary commitments? YES! Could we have more funds for scholarships? YES! Could we have more funds for ministry? YES! Could we have more funds for remodeling, improvements and construction? YES! Could members receive noticeable benefits, savings and rewards? YES! YES to all of these questions and many more but in order to achieve our objective we need your belief, support and most importantly your active participation. The COGIC Visa/Debit Card is easy to obtain and is very user friendly. NO credit check...NO bank account information required ...NO employment verification. You must simply be the age of 18 or older and a U.S resident with a valid social security number.

This card does not require extra money and requires very little extra effort. Simply use the same money you're already using to buy groceries, gasoline, household goods, shopping online, dining out, paying bills, etc.

The one extra step necessary is placing funds on your card. You can do this easily and quickly, either online, by telephone, by mail or by visiting one of numerous financial institutions.

Take advantage of the 10% discount offered on National Church conferences, convocations and conventions. Just use your COGIC Visa/Debit Card to receive your discount.

Also, every time we use our COGIC card we are promoting, presenting and bringing awareness to the World about the Church of God In Christ.

To Enroll for your COGIC Visa/Debit Card visit www.cogic card.com click on the online application or call 1-866-297-3434 (enrolling these two ways requires a Visa or MasterCard). You can also fill out an enrollment form and mail it to COGIC Card Membership 3000 Old Alabama Road 119-333 Alpharetta, GA 30022. Finally, your local church may have a COGIC Card Coordinator who can help you enroll.

You begin by choosing one of three options:

Option 1: \$35.00

(\$20.00 for processing card/ \$15.00 for funding card)

Option 2: \$50.00

(\$20.00 for processing card/ \$30.00 for funding card)

Option 3: \$100.00

(\$20.00 for processing card/ \$80.00 for funding card)

Your COGIC Visa/Debit card looks and works similar to a checking debit card and can be used everywhere Visa/Debit cards are accepted. Money must be consistently deposited onto your COGIC Card for continued use. When you use your card to make a purchase, the amount of each transaction is deducted from your balance. You always have access to your personal COGIC Card account online or by phone to check transactions and available balances.

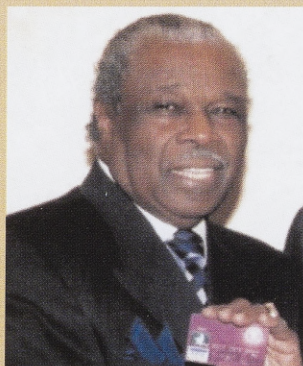
In order for the Church of God In Christ to complete its mission of financial unification and for all of us to share in the great blessings this unification brings we need you to take action and obtain your COGIC Visa/Debit Card today!

Our ambition is to have 125,000 frequent COGIC Visa/Debit Card users by the end of 2005 and 250,000 by the end of 2006

You're Not Just Buying A Card...

You're Building A Future!

For more information and support visit www.cogic card.com or call COGIC Card Members Services at 1-866-75-COGIC.



BISHOP J. NEAUL HAYNES
2ND ASSISTANT
PRESIDING BISHOP

"PASTORS JOIN US IN
OUR MISSION OF FINANCIAL
UNIFICATION. ENROLL YOUR
CHURCH IN THE COGIC VISA / DEBIT
PROGRAM TODAY"

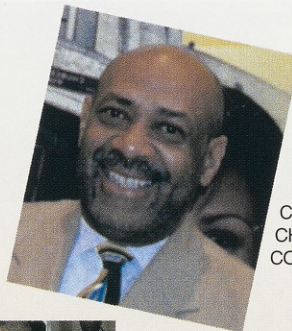
THE CENTURY MARK

THREE CHURCHES CURRENTLY HAVE MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS USING THEIR COGIC VISA/DEBIT CARD

TEMPLE OF DELIVERANCE,
MEMPHIS, TN,
PASTOR: PRESIDING BISHOP G.E. PATTERSON
COORDINATOR: VANESSA CLARK



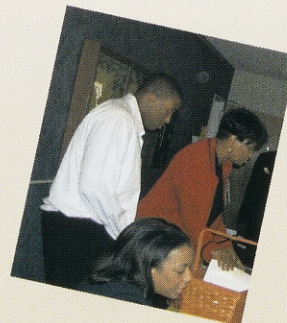
CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE, NASHVILLE, TN PASTOR:
CHIEF OF STAFF BISHOP JERRY L. MAYNARD,
COORDINATOR: BETTY JONES



REFRESHING SPRING, UPPERMARLBORO, MD.
PASTOR: SUPT. JAMES JORDON JR.
COORDINATOR: NICHOLE MATTISON



DURING A SPECIAL COGIC VISA
DEBIT CARD SUNDAY AT REFRESHING SPRING.
ENROLLING MEMBERS RECEIVED THEIR CHOICE OF A
LUNCH COOLER OR BACK PACK. PROGRAM DIRECTOR
ATTORNEY BJ WARREN AND SON LOUIE WERE ON
HAND TO HELP WITH THIS SUCCESSFUL EVENT.



COGIC CARD... ACROSS THE COUNTRY...



LATONIA RUCKER OF FRIENDLY COGIC
PASTOR: THOMAS E. HAMMONDS

LISA VAN OF HOLY TRINITY
PASTOR; BISHOP NATHANIEL W. WELLS JR.
(GENERAL BOARD MEMBER)

LATONIA AND LISA ARE TWO OF
COGIC CARDS BEST AND INNOVATIVE COORDINA-
TORS, BOTH OF THEIR CHURCHES ARE IN THE TOP
TEN AND BOTH BISHOP WELLS AND PASTOR HAM-
MONDS AS GREAT SUPPORTERS OF THE PROGRAM
HAVE ENJOYED THE BLESSING OF RECEIVING
CHECKS FOR THEIR CHURCHES INVOLVEMENT.

PASTOR SUPERINTENDENT WARDELL HARRIS AND
COORDINATOR ORA L. HARRIS TEAM UP TO MAKE
THE COGIC CARD A GREAT SUCCESS AT
THEIR CHURCH, GREATER HARVARD COGIC.



PASTOR ERIC BROOKS
ONE OF COGIC CARDS
MOST FREQUENT
USERS



DR. MARY T.
MAYNARD
"SINCE I BEGAN
USING MY COGIC
CARD MY
AMERICAN
EXPRESS STAYS AT
HOME"



BISHOP CHARLES BROWN
"I'VE USED MY CARD IN
ETHIOPIA, KENYA, UGANDA,
LONDON PARIS AND BRAZIL..
I AM SO PROUD TO PRESENT
MY COGIC CARD, KNOWING I
AM HELPING OUR CHURCH
FINANCIALLY WHILE EXPOS-
ING THE WORLD TO THE
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST"



BISHOP ROY WINBUSH ASST. SEC. OF
THE GENERAL BOARD ENCOURAGES
ALL JURISDICTIONS TO PROMOTE THE
COGIC VISA/DEBIT CARD



1ST ASSISTANT PRESIDING
BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE:
"IT WOULD BE SO WONDER-
FUL IF EVERYBODY WOULD
ESTABLISH AND ACTIVATE AN
ACCOUNT WITH THE CHURCH
OF GOD IN CHRIST DEBIT
CARD."



PAIN before PAIN stops you.



ALL NATURAL
Queen Kaila's
FAST ACTION

AS SEEN ON TV



**MOTHERLAND
BALM GEL PAIN RELIEVER**

No Drugs • No Pills • No Shots • No Surgeries • No Side Effects

Clinically proven to help control, manage, & relieve these painful conditions:

**FOR ALL ARTHRITIS & BACK PAINS
ALL CHRONIC ACHES, AND PAINS.**

Massage a generous amount directly into affected area until pain completely stops. Apply two times a day for three days, then as needed for pain.

**FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH BLOOD SUGAR,
HIGH CHOLESTEROL, POOR BLOOD CIRCULATION
& TO RELIEVE STRESS:**

Massage a generous amount into each foot (entire top & sole) until absorbed. Massage daily for best results.

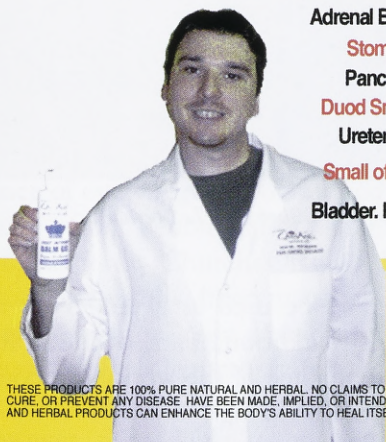
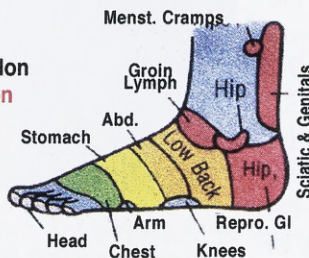
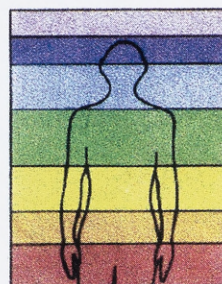
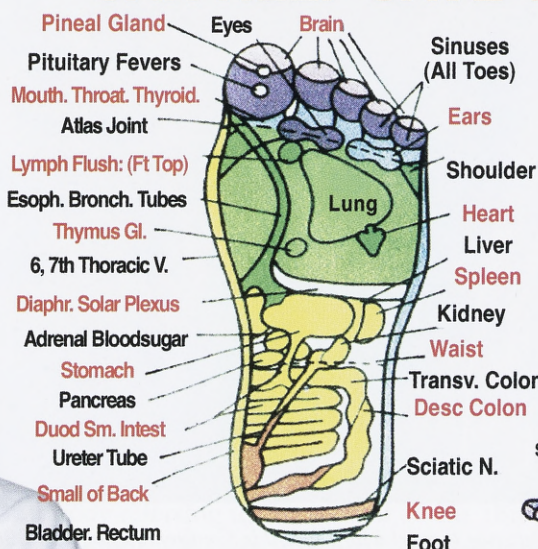


**GIVE YOURSELF THE ROYAL TREATMENT
A DAILY FOOT MASSAGE THERAPY
CAN HELP SAVE YOUR LIFE**

AS SEEN ON TV

**ORDER TODAY!
DON'T DELAY!**

\$25.95 + \$8.00 S/H
5 FOR \$100.00 FREE S/H
12 FOR \$200.00 FREE S/H
1-800-450-6664



For The Distributor Nearest You

1-800-450-6664

Motherland Products Co.

& OMNI World Corporation

"AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED ON FAITH"
P.O. BOX 2151, AUGUSTA, GA 30903

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

1-800-450-6664

THESE PRODUCTS ARE 100% PURE NATURAL AND HERBAL. NO CLAIMS TO TREAT, DIAGNOSE, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE HAVE BEEN MADE, IMPLIED, OR INTENDED. 100% PURE, NATURAL, AND HERBAL PRODUCTS CAN ENHANCE THE BODY'S ABILITY TO HEAL ITSELF.

2005 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

PLENARY SESSION SETS TONE FOR EXCEPTIONAL SUMMIT

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson Conducts Survey on the Ordination of Women

by Calvin L. Burns

More than 1,200 registered delegates along with hundreds of other attendees convened in Atlanta, Georgia at the Omni Hotel-CNN Center, January 17-20 for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. 2005 Leadership Conference. *Peace, Power and Progress* was the Conference's theme. The delegates were enlightened and inspired as they took advantage of the more than 20 workshops that were designed to enhance their management skills – while giving them insight on how to operate at a higher efficiency level as leaders.

Before continuing; here is a special news note concerning two of the General Board Members. Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Board Secretary, is recovering from what doctors diagnosed as a "light stroke" Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson announced. The Presiding Bishop explained that Bishop Hamilton has not suffered any paralysis, but his doctors advised against him being exposed to any potentially stressful situations. He prayed for Bishop Hamilton's full recovery and is asking the saints to pray for him as well. Bishop LeRoy Anderson, the Senior member of the General Board, celebrated his 84TH birthday on Tuesday of the 2005 Leadership Conference. Bishop Anderson was given a warm happy birthday greeting from the Presiding Bishop, who led the delegation in singing Happy Birthday in his honor as well.

Congratulations to Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General

Board for assembling such a superb team to design and develop the Leadership Conference. Bishop Jerry Maynard, Chief of Staff for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., is also the Chairman of the Leadership Conference, and Bishop Charles Brown serves as Conference Coordinator. These two distinguished leaders worked in collaboration with the Leadership Conference Executive Committee to create and implement a curriculum that was



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson (center) with Leadership Conference Chairman Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, (right) and Coordinator Bishop Charles Brown

so exceptional that it could be used as a model for all Christian denominations. In addition, many of the strategies and principles taught at some of the workshops could also be adapted for a corporate setting.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is highly respected throughout Christendom for being an innovative and visionary leader. This anointed vessel of God has also been recognized for taking the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. to a higher level of respectability during his first four-year term as Presiding Bishop.

He continues to stress on a national level the importance of maintaining credibility with visibility. It is not enough to shout and rejoice at our national and international meetings, there must be cutting edge teaching in the form of seminars and workshops that are aimed at keeping the Church Of God In Christ in the forefront of ministry as the nation's largest Holiness-Pentecostal denomination, the Presiding Bishop explains.

Indicative of an insightful leader intent on his followers walking in agreement and observing the same rules, the Presiding Bishop and the General Board presented a revamped Plenary Session at the 2005 Leadership Conference. The Plenary Session followed the Morning Glory service, and started promptly at 9 a.m.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson advised.

Additionally, the Presiding Bishop cited the need for a Jurisdictional Prelate or the Presidium to be able to remove a pastor from his church if he is found guilty of sexual misconduct in the secular court system. He discussed an instance where a COGIC pastor did not step down from his pulpit after such a ruling, but opted to have a hearing before the General Council of Pastors and Elders instead. This pastor was asked to resign by his Jurisdictional Prelate, and initially agreed to do so. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said the pastor in question is using his right to go before the General Council as a loophole and is bringing a reproach on the Church Of God In Christ in that community.

Then, there is an issue that is paramount with many of the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. and that is: The Ordination of Women. In his opening remarks on the issue of the Ordination of Women in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson recalled that during the tenure of the late, Presiding Bishop L.H.



Department leaders from left - Sunday School: Elder Alton Gatlin, and Mother Georgia Macklin Lowe;

Evangelism: Elder Dennis Martin; AIM: Elder J. Drew Sheard; Music: Pro. Iris Stevenson; YPWW: Elder Michael Hill; Missions VP: Bishop B. Henderson.

In these informative sessions Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson discussed the need to resolve some lingering issues before they develop into a source of contention for the Church Of God In Christ. He emphasized the importance of every segment of our body referring to the official name of our denomination – Church Of God In Christ, Inc., and not Church Of God In Christ International, which is a totally different body. Our Chief Apostle noted that he is the only Presiding Bishop of the Church. Therefore, it is inappropriate for a Jurisdictional Prelate to be recognized as the Presiding Bishop of a jurisdiction. It is, however, permissible to use the term Presiding Prelate,

Ford a committee was appointed by the General Assembly Chairman Bishop Frank J. Ellis to do a study on Women in Ministry.

At this point, our Chief Apostle noted that the General Assembly is our branch of government that is responsible for making laws and expressing rules of doctrine. Thus, the General Assembly is the only body that can determine whether or not the current policy for the ordination of women will change or remain the same, he explained.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said questions concerning

the issue of the ordination of women are constantly brought to his attention. He stated that before a recommendation is made to the General Assembly he would like to get feedback from the general membership on the issue. Then, he announced that he had prepared the Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry. Delegates were asked to take the seven-part questionnaire, fill it out in the privacy of their hotel room, and return it at Wednesday's Plenary Session. The results will be announced at Thursday's session. (Please see Plenary Highlights for results, and Survey Page)

After the saints absorbed the wealth of information and apostolic wisdom imparted by the Presiding Bishop in the Plenary Sessions, they were ready to use that knowledge as a passage into the workshops. There, they were taught by a highly qualified and well-versed group of instructors who readily shared their expertise.

A review of the conference's syllabus revealed that the Executive Committee had planned a comprehensive curriculum aimed at impacting every aspect of leadership in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. In fact, there was an offering for the following: General Board, National Department Leaders, Judiciary Board, Board of Bishops, Supervisors, Assistant Supervisors, Pastors, Supervisors without Charge, Administrative Assistants, Superintendents, Elders, District Missionaries, Evangelist Missionaries, Jurisdictional Department Leaders, Auxiliary Leaders, Bishops' Wives, Superintendents' Wives, Pastors' Wives, Elders' Wives, Widows of Bishops and Pastors, Security, Adjutants, Jurisdictional Secretaries, Jurisdictional Convention Planners, and Lay Leadership.

Yes, it was an awesome setting, but the delegates did not have to be in awe. All they had to do was to walk into a classroom and be edified. For example, the elect ladies of the church who have a special place of honor in their role as a bishop's wife could be enriched in such sessions as The Quest for Excellence: A Response To Modern Trends and Thoughts Concerning Clergy Wives, which was taught by Dr. Juliet White, wife of Bishop Frank Otha White, National Financial Secretary and Jurisdictional Prelate of the Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Eastern New York; Core Competencies For Spiritual Leadership, where Dr. Mary Maynard served as instructor. Dr. Maynard is married to Chief of Staff Bishop Jerry Maynard, who also serves as Jurisdictional Prelate of the Tennessee Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; The First Lady of the Church Of God In Christ – who of course is the charming wife of our illustrious Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Evangelist Louise Patterson, taught on the topic, Pause If You Must, But Don't Stop; Dr. Dannette Fishburne Scott presided over the session entitled, Going Back To Eden: An

Presiding Bishop
G.E. Patterson
said questions
concerning the
issue of the
ordination of
women are
constantly
brought to his
attention.

Approach To Prevention and Physical Healing. Dr. Scott is married to Bishop William Scott, Prelate of the Illinois Southeast Jurisdiction. Women Gifted for Ministry was taught by Missionary Connie E. Brown, wife of Bishop Charles E. Brown; and Evangelist Shirley A. Jordan shared her expertise on, Excellence in Leadership Through The Power of Communication. Evangelist Jordan is married to Bishop Walter E. Jordan, Prelate for the Ohio North First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Nationally appointed and elected leaders were uplifted in the illuminating session, Implementing the Vision, which was taught by Chief of Staff, Bishop Jerry Maynard. Superintendent Elton Amos, MD, enlightened and inspired the Superintendents and Administrative Assistants with his instruction on, The Psychological Profile of the Preacher: The Quest For Measurable Outcomes. The Pastors and Elders were elevated into new horizons through such sessions as Training: An Imperative Not An Option, which was taught by Dr. V. Roydon Clarke; Evangelist Sylvia Hamlett Law gave valuable information on, Starting A Non Profit Community Based Organization 501 c3; Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr. provided insight through his extremely effective lecture, Building Strong Ministerial Teams to Facilitate Maximum Accomplishments; Dr. David Hall, Sr. was equally effective in his presentation, The Church Amid Cultural

Warfare; Elder Mel J. Williams conducted a dynamic session on, What Leaders Do; and Dr. Leonard Lovett offered a wealth of information in his presentation on, Church Development: On Expansion and Retention.

The saintly supervisors were edified in, The Dynamics Of Excellent Leadership, taught by Mother Stella M. Watson; Supervisors Rising To The Challenge Of A Cutting Edge Society; Mother Inez Milhouse, instructor; The Effective Spiritual Leader was the presentation of Mother Charlotte Eades; The Supervisor Has A Supervisor AKA: Accountability, was taught by Mother Freddye Carter; Excellence In Leadership: Essential Characteristics, was well addressed by Mother Victorine Jackson Mackey; and God's Leading Women Can Improve The Journey, was the impressive presentation of Mother Rosetta Watts.

Additionally there were more than 14 workshops available that were designed to impact the laity. These informative sessions were led by such renowned leaders as Evangelist Vicki M. Johnson, Elder Andre' S. Morgan, Elder K. Douglas Berry, Evangelist Delois Foster, Evangelist Michelle M. Callaway, Missionary Gloria Major Brown, and Evangelist Shirley D. Perpener.

Then, there is the must mention category. Bishop Malcolm Colby, Jurisdictional Prelate for Oklahoma Southeast, and a noted educator was definitely on the cutting edge in his presentation before the Board of Bishops, Empowering Leaders Without Creating Mutiny. Bishop Colby received a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Oklahoma, and has received numerous awards in his role as an educator. Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, Jurisdictional Prelate for Wisconsin Southeast First, epitomized the well-informed and uniquely qualified instructor in his session to the Superintendents and Administrative Assistants which was titled, Church Growth And The Development of Effective Ministry Partnership. Bishop Daniels' impressive resume includes having served as the City of Milwaukee's Planning Commissioner and being the first protestant board member for the Catholic Central Schools in that city.

Yes, there was a strong emphasis placed on teaching and training at this comprehensive leadership summit. Although there were many other workshops available, those mentioned convey the learning ambience for the various groups that were targeted, as well as topic diversity.

Atlanta is known for being an international city, and the state of Georgia has been lauded for its southern hospitality. The warm welcome and impeccable preparation exhibited by the local sponsoring jurisdictions of the 2005 Leadership Conference clearly reinforced those attributes. General Board Member and Former Presiding Bishop C.D. Owens, served as Chairman of the Planning Committee

for the host Jurisdictional Prelates. The articulate and scholarly Former Presiding Bishop serves as Presiding Prelate for Georgia Central, where Mother E. McGrew is Supervisor. Bishop Owens advised The Whole Truth that the Bishops of Georgia remained focused on sanctified esprit de corps in their role as host.

"The state of Georgia united as one in order to promote the 2005 Leadership Conference," Bishop Owens said. "As we blended as one, we remained cognizant of the fact that we wanted the citizens of our state to see the greatness of the Church Of God In Christ that is exhibited worldwide. It was indeed a memorable conference, where the Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson was at his best as he taught the leaders of our Church what it means to be a representor of Jesus Christ. The services were filled to capacity, not only with people, but with the glory of God," Bishop Owens concluded.

The other hosts Jurisdictional Prelates and Supervisors are: Bishop L. Shaw, Georgia First Southern, Mother M. King, Supervisor; Bishop A. Williams, Georgia Northern First, Mother B. Williams, Supervisor; Bishop M. Walden, Georgia Northern Second, Mother B. Fitts, Supervisor; Bishop B. Collins, Georgia Southeast, Mother L. Gordon, Supervisor; Bishop J. Stephens, Georgia Southern Second, Mother A. Engram, Supervisor; Bishop F. Kelley, Africa Malawi Central; Bishop P. Fortson, Barbados and Caribbean; Bishop R. White Bermuda; Bishop B. Henderson; Uganda South Africa; Mother C. Duncan, Bermuda; and Mother M. Moore, Trinidad and Tobago.

Chief of Staff and Conference Chairman, Bishop Jerry Maynard told The Whole Truth that he totally concurred with Bishop Owens' assessment of the 2005 Leadership Conference. He quickly added: "The Leadership Conference in Georgia exceeded our expectations as it relates to attendance, effectiveness, presentation, and the general impact that it had on all attendees."

For the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ, worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness is the ultimate highlight for any setting. For a summary of the worship services at the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. 2005 Leadership Conference, please see the overview page.

2005 Leadership Conference:

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

MONDAY: JANUARY 17

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bishop Mark Walden, Officiating

Today is the Federal Holiday honoring the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Invocation, Supt. J.E. Hogan

Reading of Holy Scriptures: Old Testament, Supt. William Williams;

New Testament, Supt. Felton Talley

Praise and Worship, Conference Praise Team

The Leadership Conference Mass Choir ministered under the direction of
Professor Iris Stevenson

THE MESSAGE

Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr.

Text: St. Matt. 3:13-17 – Subject – God's Approval

TUESDAY: JANUARY 18

8:00 a.m.

MORNING GLORY

Pastor Ronald Houston, Officiating

Prayer, Evangelist Frances Kelley

Praise and Worship, Evangelist Authurine Henderson

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Roderick L. Hennings

Text: II Kings 4: several verses – Subject – A Prophet's Reward

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bishop Matthew Williams Officiating

Invocation, Evangelist Charles Hickey

Reading of Holy Scriptures Old Testament / New Testament – Elder A. Perpener, Elder Levi Willis, III

Praise and Worship, Conference Praise Team

Music Ministry, Prof. Iris Stevenson, Leadership Conference Mass Choir

THE MESSAGE

Pastor William S. Wright, Sr.

Text: Genesis 17:15-17 – Romans 4: 13-25 – Subject – Stagger Not: The Promise Is Yet To Come

WEDNESDAY: JANUARY 19

Pastor Robert Smith, Jr., Officiating

8:00 a.m.

MORNING GLORY

Prayer, Evangelist Carolyn Morgan

Praise and Worship, Evangelist Lori E. Porter

THE MESSAGE

Supt. Robert Harris

Text: II Timothy 3:1-2 – Subject – Living in Dangerous Times

7:00 p.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, Officiating

Invocation, Dr. Elton Amos

Reading of Holy Scriptures: Old Testament, Elder Marco Sims, New Testament, Pastor George Davis

Praise and Worship, Conference Praise Team

Convention Highlights and Observations, Bishop Charles Brown, Conference Coordinator

Music Ministry, Leadership Conference Mass Choir

Offering

Words of Inspiration, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J.N. Haynes

Introduction of Speaker, First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake

Music Ministry, Lady June Pace-Martin

THE MESSAGE

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson

Pre Sermon Highlights

In introducing Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake advised the audience that our Chief Apostle had been asked by the White House to participate in the Inaugural Prayer Service for President Bush. The event was set for Friday at the Washington National Cathedral. Dr. Billy Graham was to lead the opening prayer.

"The wisdom, the insight, the alertness of this (Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's) administration is denoted by the fact that they would not dare have that service with out inviting Bishop G.E. Patterson, the Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ; to be involved in that service not for one program item, but for two program items," Bishop Blake emphatically stated.

Evangelist Earl Carter was granted permission by the Presiding Bishop to come before the assembly and make a statement. In his remarks, Elder Carter acknowledged that he had disrespected the Presidium in a previous sermon at an International setting. He noted that in an attempt to make a theological illustration, in "haste" a term was used to describe the leadership that should not have been made. Elder Carter emphasized that he meant no disrespect. He apologized to Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board, for any hurt or disrespect that he had caused them. He commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his exemplary leadership, and noted the prominence of the Church Of God In Christ as the nation's preeminent Holiness-Pentecostal body. He expressed his love for the Church Of God In Christ and asked to be restored to fellowship.

"This Church is the greatest church in the whole wide world, and we have the greatest (Presiding) Bishop in the whole wide world," he said in closing. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson responded to the apology with an embrace, a "thank you... and God Bless you..." while encouraging the saints to continue their applause of support, by saying "Oh come on; praise the Lord, praise the Lord!"

Text: Galatians 3:1-5 – Subject – Paul Defends The Gospel

Sermon Highlights:

Wherever we are in leadership; if we are serving legally, we are there because one day we accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Having become a minister of the Gospel, no matter what level of leadership, or what other positions held; we must stay focused on proclaiming the Gospel to a world of unbelievers.

•
Apostle Paul often found himself defending his apostleship and the Gospel which he preached.

•
In defending erroneous doctrine; Apostle Paul often had to refer to what the Gospel is.

•
Other forms of personal enrichment such as positive thinking and financial increase have their place; but we should never lose focus of the Gospel.

•
John 3:16, reminds us that Jesus came to save us from our sin. He was our scapegoat that we might be saved.

•
He died, but He was resurrected. Apostle Paul had to emphasize the resurrection.

•
Because of Apostle Paul's teaching of Grace, he was constantly confronted by proponents of Judaism, who insisted he must incorporate those principles in his message on Salvation.

•
We must guard against legalism, and listing Salvation as a list of do's and don'ts.

We must embrace a Gospel of Salvation of Grace through Faith.

•
God has made the Church Of God In Christ the flagship denomination of the Holiness-Pentecostal experience.

•
God made us (The Church Of God In Christ) through Salvation, Sanctification and the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Just as Apostle Paul was able to defend the Gospel, by emphasizing God's plan of Salvation by Grace through Faith – alerting his converts not to be deceived by advocates of a perverted Gospel; the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ should have the same resolve.

The Church Of God In Christ is a 100-year-old body and is a "University" when it comes to the Pentecostal experience, the Presiding Bishop explained. The saints should adhere to our belief of Salvation, Sanctification, and the Gift of the Holy Ghost, and not be deceived by those in "kindergarten" who are insisting that one automatically receives the Holy Ghost after being saved and can speak in tongues by "developing their prayer language."

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson then recalled how he was saved after hearing a message on Salvation delivered by his father, the late, Bishop W.A. Patterson.

After receiving Salvation, joy came, the Presiding Bishop declared. To emphasize this point, he developed an analogy describing how a dog who was once chained to a post in the backyard, and has that chain taken off by the master, gradually walks closer to the fence – leaps over the fence and runs down the street.

The running did not set Rover free, but he started to run because he was free, noted Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, who now had moved from the teaching phase into the preaching arena.

Then, the Presiding Bishop recited the following verse of song: "Oh the joy, that came to me, w-h-e-n, w-h-e-n, when I knew that I was free, When my Savior found me, put His arms around me, Oh the Joy," he continued. At this point Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson had preached the saints to their feet, and he asked the question: "Anybody in here know He saved you? Know He washed you in the blood? Know He filled you with the Holy Ghost? You ought to tell somebody I am saved, and I know that I am," he concluded.

THURSDAY: JANUARY 20

8:00 a.m.

MORNING GLORY

Mother Mary Tucker, Officiating • Prayer, Prophet Bobby Dawson
Praise and Worship Evangelist Patricia Lewis

THE MESSAGE

Mother Elizabeth Croom • Text: Romans 10:8 – Subject – Keep The Faith

2005 Leadership Conference:

Overview of Plenary Sessions

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conducted by The Presiding Bishop and General Board

TUESDAY: JANUARY 18

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson welcomes the delegates. He thanks the saints for allowing him to serve another four years. The Plenary format is discussed. The Presiding Bishop advises that this will be a time of candid dialogue and concerns. Later, the Presiding Bishop emphasizes that the official name of our denomination, is the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. Some of the pastors and other leaders under our banner are using the name Church Of God In Christ International, which is a totally different body the Presiding Bishop advises. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said questions concerning the issue of the ordination of women are constantly brought to his attention. He states that before a recommendation is made to the General Assembly concerning changing existing policy, he would like to get feedback from the general membership on this issue. He announces that he has prepared the, Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry. Delegates are asked to take the seven-part questionnaire, fill it out in the privacy of their hotel rooms, and return it for Wednesday's session. The finding of this "informal poll" will be announced at Thursday's session.

WEDNESDAY: JANUARY 19

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson announces that Bishop LeRoy Anderson celebrated his 84th birthday on Tuesday. He leads the singing of Happy Birthday in Bishop Anderson's honor. The Presiding Bishop states that with the exception of announcing the findings of, The Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry, all other business will be concluded with today's session. The Presiding Bishop made this decision to allow Thursday's workshops to be conducted during the morning hours. This strategic move will make it possible for the 2005 Leadership Conference to conclude with the luncheon. At this point, the Presiding Bishop emphasizes the importance of the jurisdictions being in full support of the National Church. It is essential for each Jurisdictional Prelate to keep the local churches in tune with what the National Leadership is doing and the needs of the National Church. He discusses his desire to build a state-of-the-art Administration Building so all of the national leaders and boards can operate from a centralized location.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson advises the assemblage that the General Board will be making proposals for amendments to the Constitution that will ensure the Presidium's ability to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Church.

Pastors cannot act as a union to protect colleagues who are guilty of sexual misconduct. Cites an instance where a Jurisdictional Prelate asked a pastor, who had been found guilty of sexual misconduct in civil court to resign. Pastor initially stated that he would step-down. The pastor later, however, appealed to the General Council of Pastors and Elders instead. Since no action had been brought by the pastor's membership – the General Council ruled in his favor. The Jurisdictional Prelate's hands should not "be tied" in removing a pastor in such an instance, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said. The Presiding Bishop noted a trend where board of trustees at local churches are seizing control of the church and ousting the pastor. Leadership must be respected at all levels; the Office of Presiding Bishop cannot be disrespected or challenged on any level, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson explained.

No leader or department is on an island unto itself. All leaders and departments are subject to the authority of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board. Membership must become involved in supporting the National Church. The Presiding Bishop declared the 4th Sunday in August as Membership Report Sunday. At this point, Assistant Secretary of the General Board, Bishop Roy Winbush is asked to come forward and read the names of the national appointees for the next quadrennial. The Presiding Bishop states that this is about 90 percent of the appointments. (Please see announced National Appointments)

THURSDAY: JANUARY 20

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson announces the findings of his "informal poll", Presiding Bishop's Survey on Women in the Ministry. More than 700 surveys were issued. The medium age of those responding is 46 to 65.

326 answered: I believe The Church should remain as is started – no ordination of women and no women pastors.

162 answered: I believe that we should ordain women. 244 answered: I believe women should be free to pastor in the Church Of God In Christ. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said this issue should be resolved, so it will not be allowed to be a source of friction in the body.

He stated that in some cases women in the Church Of God In Christ are being ordained into the chaplaincy. In other instances, a wife works with her husband in the ministry, and at his death assumes the pastorate, the Presiding Bishop explained. Yes, in some of our jurisdictions women have been ordained and are serving as pastors, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson reiterated.

At this point, the Presiding Bishop noted that the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ does not permit women pastors to be a delegate to the General Assembly. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said one's beliefs on Women in the Ministry should be based on the Holy Scriptures. He stated that his belief regarding women pastors is biblically based in I Corinthians 11: 1-3. Later, the delegates were dismissed to attend the final workshops and luncheon.

NATIONAL QUADRENNIAL APPOINTMENTS

The following quadrennial appointments for the National Church were announced at the 2005 Leadership Conference.

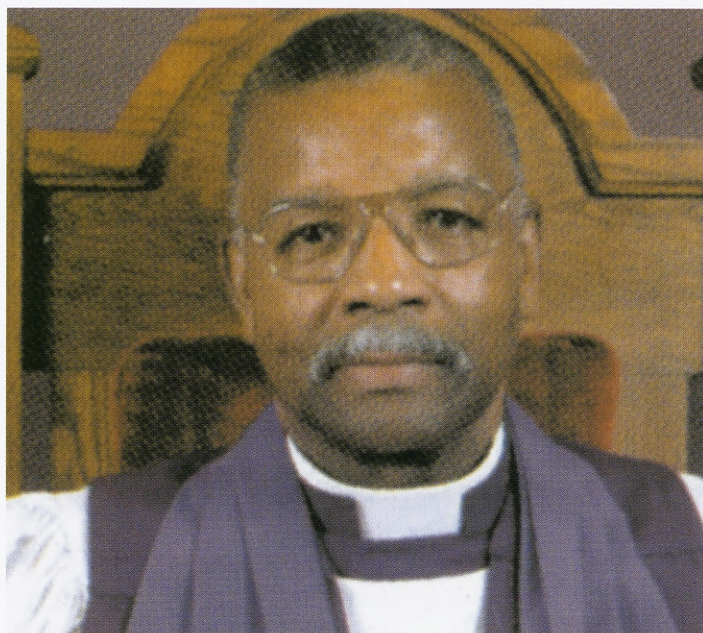
Supervisor, Department of Women • Mother Willie Mae Rivers
Chief of Staff - Bishop Jerry L. Maynard
Chief Accountant - Elder Andrew Prepener
Chief Legal Counsel - Elder Enoch Perry
Adjutant General • Bishop Matthew Williams
Director, Soul Winning Ministry • Bishop Bob Jackson
Director, Transportation • Elder Readus C. Smith, Sr.
Director, Intercessory Prayer • Evangelist Frances Kelley
Director, Church Growth and Development • Dr. Otis Lockett
Director, Chaplaincy • Elder Samuel Morgan
President, National Usher Department • Brother Willie Cook
Chairman, Board of Directors Saints Academy • Bishop D.L. Lindsey
Chief of Security • Elder Jerald Harris
Director, COGIC Men's Conference • Bishop Darrell Hines
Chairman, AIM • Elder J. Drew Sheard
President, Sunday School Department • Elder Alton Gatlin
Field Representative Sunday School • Mother Georgia Macklin Lowe
President, Evangelism • Elder Dennis Martin
Elect Lady, Evangelism • Evangelist Marie Gardner Thomas
President, Music Department • Professor Iris Stevenson
Vice President, Music Department • Dorinda Clark Cole
Vice President, Music Department • Barbara Jackson
Vice President, Music Department • Dr. Frank Anthone White
Vice President, Music Department • Judy McAllister
President, Missions • Bishop C.L. Moody
President, YPWW • Elder Michael Hill
Chairlady, YPWW • Evangelist Joyce Rodgers
National Ecumenical Officer, COGIC • Dr. Leonard Lovett

Bishop John H. Sheard Elected New Chairman for Board of Bishops

Bishop L.T. Walker Cites Health Concerns in Relinquishing Leadership

Bishop John H. Sheard, Jurisdictional Prelate for Michigan Southwest First, was elected to serve as the new chairman for the Church Of God In Christ's Board of Bishops – during the Board's Quadrennial Elections at the 97th International Holy Convocation. Bishop Sheard has a rich

that time. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is a great leader and powerful preacher...and we (Board of Bishops) stand in full support of the vision that God has given him for the Church Of God In Christ."



Bishop John H. Sheard

legacy as an educator, distinguished prelate, and loyal laborer in the church. He succeeds Bishop L.T. Walker, Jurisdictional Prelate of Arkansas First, who served with distinction for more than five decades as Vice Chairman and Chairman. Bishop Sheard was tapped after Bishop Walker advised the Board that he no longer desired to serve as Chairman.

"My decision was based on health reasons," Bishop Walker told The Whole Truth. "I felt it was time to let a younger person take the mantle of leadership. This is a wonderful position, but it requires a lot of traveling. I felt it was time to conserve my energy, and concentrate more on my pastoral and jurisdictional duties," he continued.

The personable prelate added that an arthritic knee makes air travel extremely difficult for him. Then, he gave his testimony and kudos to Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson.

"This is a glorious, victorious life we have as Saints of the Most High God," he said. "I was consecrated as a Bishop in the Church Of God In Christ in 1960, and it has been an honor to serve with the leadership of our Church since



Bishop L.T. Walker

Bishop Walker is the senior pastor at Holy Temple Cathedral COGIC in Little Rock. The well-respected Jurisdictional Prelate serves as the spiritual mentor for many of the 140 pastors in Arkansas First.

Bishop Sheard, who serves as senior pastor at Greater Mitchell Temple COGIC, is a highly respected spiritual and community leader. He is well known for being an exemplary leader, who instills into his members through the profound teaching and preaching of the Word of God, to be effective witnesses and vessels of honor for the Lord.

A native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, he was born into the union of the late Rev. O.S. Sheard and Mother Kizziah Sheard. He felt the hand of God being manifested upon his life as a lad, and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age. He moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1954, where he joined Bailey Temple COGIC – and placed himself under the ministry of Bishop John Seth Bailey. He became an active worker in the church, and in 1956, he married Miss Willie Mae Gordon, daughter of the late Deacon Marshall and Mother Eunice Gordon.

He worked his way up the ranks of leadership at Bailey Temple, serving on the Deacon Board and as Chairman of the Youth Department. In 1973, he acknowledged his call to the ministry and was ordained as an Elder by Bishop Bailey in 1974.

The then, Elder Sheard, continued to fully support his pastor, Bishop Bailey, in all of his various duties and endeavors. Bishop Bailey was so impressed by the young Elder Sheard's dedication to leadership and devotion to God that he appointed him Associate Pastor at Seth Temple COGIC. He served in the position for two years and in January 1982; Bishop Bailey was moved by God to appoint Elder Sheard, pastor, of Mitchell Street COGIC. The membership at Mitchell Street began to grow rapidly under Elder Sheard's anointed and visionary leadership. Yes, the young and old; people from all walks of life and from every segment of the community responded to the Call of God through this illuminating ministry. Within six months, the congregation needed larger quarters; there was a move to 15105 Meyers, where the facility was renamed Greater Mitchell COGIC.

Elder Sheard continued to work tirelessly for the Lord and in March 1985, was elevated to the position of District Superintendent of District 18 and later to District 6. In September 1985, Bishop Willie Harris gave Supt. Sheard a dual appointment to the state's Executive Board and President of the Youth Department.

Following Bishop Harris' homegoing on September 30, 1992, the General Board allowed the pastors of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Michigan Southwest to recommend their choice for Bishop. Supt. Sheard, as expected, received the most recommendations from his colleagues. The General Board affirmed that choice and promptly consecrated Supt. Sheard as Bishop of the First

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Michigan Southwest.

Now, there was a need for Mitchell Street to have a facility large enough to hold state meetings. In February 1993, the congregation relocated to 13737 Curtis, and renamed the body Greater Mitchell Temple.

Bishop Sheard salutes his wife, now Missionary Willie Mae Sheard, for faithfully standing by his side down through the years. He is also appreciative of the love and loyalty of their children, Supt. J. Drew Sheard and Minister Ethan Sheard.

A veteran educator, Bishop Sheard served with distinction in the Detroit Public School system for more than two decades. He earned both his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and Master's of Arts Degree in Humanistic Psychology from Wayne State University.

Some of his honors and achievements include: Gave Commencement Address and received Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Lewis College of Business, 1994; Serving as a civilian on the Police Commission for the City of Detroit, this position is known as Police Commissioner, 1994; serving on the Board of Directors for the Urban League; serving on the City of Detroit Human Rights Commission; and being seated next to President Bill Clinton when he visited Detroit in 1995. Additionally, Bishop Sheard was asked to give the invocation at this community rally. God's anointing was so great upon him, that after being introduced, President Clinton was moved to say, "The Bishop really prayed."

The eminent leader had served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Bishops. With his ascension to Chairman, he now presides over the following 12-member executive board:

12-Member Executive Board

Bishop William H. Watson - First Vice Chairman
 Bishop Benjamin P. Collins - Second Vice Chairman
 Bishop Samuel Iglehart - Special Assistant to Chairman
 Bishop Larry L. Shaw - Executive Secretary
 Bishop Hester Bordeaux - Assistant Secretary
 Bishop Lorenzo L. Kelley - Chairman, Resolution Committee
 Bishop Robert Sanders - Vice Chairman, Resolution Committee
 Bishop Aubrey Baker - Chairman, Job Description/Policy
 Bishop Ocie Booker - Chairman, Budgeting Committee
 Bishop O.L. Meadows - Vice Chairman, Historical Committee
 Bishop David R. Murray - Member
 Bishop David Houston - Member

55th Women's International Convention/Crusade

Mother Willie Mae Rivers and Executive Staff Provide Exciting Itinerary for Thousands of COGIC Women Spreading Holy Ghost Fire at the Atlanta Georgia's World Congress Center

By Glenda Williams-Goodson

May 30-June 4, 2005 is a date no COGIC woman should want to miss. That is the time for the annual gathering of the women of the premier Pentecostal Church in America, the Church Of God In Christ!

Pre-convention/crusade activities begin Saturday May 28, 2005 with a 3:00 p.m. session with Jurisdictional Supervisors and Assistant Jurisdictional Supervisors. On Monday morning, sharply at 10:30 a.m., the General Leadership Conference Session will convene for leaders from the local level to the national. In a recent statement Internal General Supervisor Willie Mae Rivers stated that, "The local church is the foundation of all of our activities," and she finds it imperative that leaders such as the over 3,000 attendees who gathered in 2004 receive first hand information to take back to the local setting.

Another anticipated feature is the Monday night Gospel Explosion with special artists from around the country which in prior years have included Evangelist and Pastor Shirley Caesar, COGIC's own Dorinda Clark Cole and many other national recording artists along with jurisdictional choirs and local artists. For a small fee of \$12.00 (\$8.00 for children 12 and under).

Executive Board Chairperson Mother Gertrude Young and her staff will host their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, May 31. Tickets are available through Jurisdictional Supervisors.

A new and much welcomed addition to the WIC/Crusade is the President's Dialogue with Young

Women aged 49 and under. This year it will be held Wednesday, June 1 at 7:30 a.m. Mother Rivers takes up to two hours to answer questions from this group and interviews with many others. The more than 900 young women who attended the session in 2004 found the gathering to be informative and very uplifting.

There is something for everyone attending the WIC/Crusade – Daily services begin Tuesday May 31, 2005 and include Morning Prayer and inspirational messages, open forum workshops, outreach ministries including foreign missions, children/teen ministries and workshops for men. Powerful COGIC women from around the world are featured during the evening worship services held nightly at 7:30 p.m. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson annual message to the women of the Church of God in Christ is a much anticipated highlight of the WIC.

Mother Rivers urges all women to register through the Red Card Registration. Information on registration fees may be obtained through the Jurisdictional Supervisors or by contacting Women's International Convention, P.O. Box 1052, Memphis, TN 38101 Phone 901.775.0600. Most women love a bargain and the Red Card Registration is a good deal. It includes hotel accommodations for 5 nights (based on double occupancy over convention dates only), three breakfast meals, four dinner meals, souvenir journal, program booklet and WIC tote bag.

Hurry before the April 15 deadline to purchase your Red Card.

2005 Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
Calendar of Events

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Leadership Conference
January 17th-20th
Atlanta, Georgia

April Call Meeting
Of the General Assembly
Installation of National Officers

April 4th
General Assembly
April 5th – 7th
Memphis, Tennessee
(866) 522-1331

Men's Conference
May 12th – 14th
Detroit, Michigan
(414) 760-2332

Women's Convention
May 30th – June 3rd
Atlanta, Georgia
(901) 775-0600

Auxiliaries in Ministry (A.I.M.)
July 4th – 9th
Kansas City, Missouri
(313) 864-7170

Pastor's and Elder's Conference
August 24th – 26th
Orlando, Florida
(407) 226-3505

Bishop's Conference
September 21st-23rd
Detroit, Michigan
(313) 345-8633

98th International Holy Convocation
November 7th – 15th
Memphis, Tennessee
(866) 522-1331

THE COGIC WOMAN

Mrs. Frances H. Miller-Harris

National President, Business and Professional Women's Federation

The slogan for the National Business and Professional Women's Federation is: It takes a real woman to live for God and living for God will make a real woman – Put your profession to work for God. The purpose of the Business and Professional Women's Federation is to organize and unite Christian women in the business and professional fields. The Whole Truth's editor wants readers to know more about this important Department of Women entity so he had a reporter contact President Frances Miller-Harris, who daily lives that mantra of service as head of the Department of Woman auxiliary.

The late Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey and Mother Josephine Robinson saw the need to organize a chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Federation for the Church Of God In Christ. In 1976 Mother Mattie McGlothen appointed the late Mother Victoria Barnes as National President and she held the first organizational meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Each supervisor has supported the work of the Department. "The late Mother Emma Crouch and our present General Supervisor Willie Mae Rivers have also motivated the organization to continue to spread joy and encourage more of the ladies to join and promote Christ in a business and professional way," Sister Miller-Harris recalled.

Mrs. Miller-Harris feels that professional women must hold fast to their purpose in a meaningful and benevolent working unit. "Each year at the Women's Convention, the Business and Professional Women give a donation to a deserving organization. In 2004 St. Louis local charities – Almost Home, The Neighborhood Outreach Center and Faith House – were given a total of \$5,000.00," she says. Because of her dedication, the National Business and Professional Women's Federation is growing says Mrs. Emma Clark, National Membership Chairperson. "Fran is

responsible for the B&PWF website, www.businessandprofessionalwomencogic.com. Through the links with the national church and Department of Women, many business and professional women have contacted the BPWF information," she explained and added "We now have chapters in 75 per cent of the jurisdictions and many district and local chapters in jurisdictions where there is not a jurisdictional chapter. We are definitely an organization on the move with a ministry. Additionally, Fran encourages every chapter to be ministry minded and not



Mrs. Francis H. Miller-Harris

just a fund raising auxiliary." Yes, this multitasking administrator remains focused on being busy for Christ; and not a busy-body. She shared with The Whole Truth how she endeavors to keep Christ as the focal point in all of her activities. Mrs. Miller-Harris also

commended Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for his outstanding leadership, and noted how she personally has been blessed by his ministry.

While Mrs. Miller-Harris, a native Memphian was appointed in 1999 as National President, she is no stranger to working in the Church. She grew up in Memphis and was one of eight children, born into the union of the late Russell, and Mrs. Kizzie Peterson. Mrs. Miller-Harris said her parents were both loving and supportive of their children. In fact, Mrs. Peterson, who is now 89, still resides in Memphis. Mrs. Miller-Harris was filled with the Holy Ghost at the Temple Church Of God In Christ (founded by Bishop C.H. Mason) and has been saved for 38 years. Serving the Lord and the church in Memphis, she had opportunity to work with many leaders such as Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. Mother Freddie Bell, Bishop W.L. Porter and Bishop L.H. Ford. "Bishop Ford appointed me as the director of courtesy for the convocation... Rendering courtesies for the Presiding Bishop and General Mother, General

Board and the National Department heads." Locally at the Ennis Chapel Church Of God In Christ in Richmond, California she serves as the Director of the Care Line Ministry, advisor for the YWCC and has been recently appointed to the Trustee Board. "The historical Ennis Chapel COGIC church has served the Richmond Community for approximately 70 years and was founded by Bishop Sidney Ennis. Pastor Keith Williams, recently appointed by Bishop Albert Galbreath (Northern California First Jurisdiction) is a tremendously innovative pastor who is building upon the foundation laid down by the fathers. It is a joy to work with this leader and his lovely wife," she says.

Along with her husband, Rev. James Harris, Sr., she has coordinated the Northern California Youth Day for the past seven years honoring youth for outstanding accomplishments in school, church and community. "I thank God for my husband. After being a widow for seven years the Lord blessed a wonderful man to find me. He has been gracious in supporting my ministry in both the business and church world. Says Emma Clark "Fran is a great supporter of her husband's outreach ministry. Annually she helps him sponsor a program to honor outstanding youth in the community. Hundreds of youth are in attendance and all receive a Bible and t-shirt and the honorees receive a large trophy." She also coordinates the Women of the Year Awards in Northern California BPW for five years. "It's a luncheon honoring women in the business and professional arena in Northern California and is open to all denominations. The recipients have contributed greatly in their homes, communities, churches and schools," Mrs. Miller-Harris explains.

Sister Miller-Harris served for 18 years as National Secretary of the Department and President of the Headquarters Chapter for 12 years. "I served for eighteen years with the late Mother Victoria Barnes who was a mentor for me." She was appointed in 2004 by Mother Willie Mae Rivers to serve as the Director of Transportation for the Women's Convention after the home going of Dr. Anna Crockett Ford. "The Lord has given me wonderful mentors and I was blessed to serve as co-chair to the late Anna Crockett Ford." Someone has said that busy people are always given something to do and this organizational genius serves on various committees in the Department of Women under the leadership of Mother Willie Mae Rivers. "I have found Mother Rivers to be a real mother, full of wisdom and compassion and always willing to share and understand her ladies," she says. She feels that every woman should be polished and serve her church with as much excellence and attention to detail as she would in the corporate arena. "Fran is a very personable person. Even with all of her national responsibilities and busy

schedules at conventions, she is kind and considerate...not only does she coordinate the transportation at the WIC, but I have actually seen her riding the buses and talking to the saints to get a feel of what it is really like and make necessary changes," says Clark.

Sister Miller-Harris has also pursued a career as a Fashion Coordinator/Consultant for thirty-five years and is the principal partner in Harris & Harris Designer Fashion Connections. "This business started in Memphis, Tennessee as Fran's Designer Fashions. I wished to serve the ladies with beautiful clothing at affordable prices. I worked in this business for 30 years in Memphis." Clients such as the late Mother Mattie McGlothen frequented the Memphis shop where it seemed that hats she purchased had been chosen with Mother McGlothen in mind.

Her community affiliations include serving as a volunteer for the American Bible Society (Assistant State coordinator and Executive Steering Committee Convention Planning Member), and a member of the Ministers and Widow's Wives Association of Richmond. "The Minister's and Widow's Wives is an organization comprised of Minister's Wives and/or Widows. What we do is share care and help each other. We feel that minister's wives are a great support to one another. There are instances where only minister's wives are able to affirm one another."

Sister Miller-Harris is the mother of one son, Professor Christopher D. Miller. Dr. Miller and his wife, Lanis, have blessed Sister Miller-Harris with three grandsons, Christopher II, Benjamin and Nicholas.

Christopher teaches high school English and tutors music. He also works as a professor in the Los Angeles area and teaches at the Domingas Community College. In addition, he is also a gifted musician.

This most distinguished organization has a lot to tell others about living saved as a career. "Our organization can help by embracing them as they are equipped with sources and resources," Sis. Miller-Harris observed. "We do a mass networking throughout the organization. We have a quarterly newsletter; and we need the support of the younger women to keep the organization moving. Our long term vision is to have a chapter in every jurisdiction in the Church Of God In Christ."

For more information about the COGIC Business and Professional Women's Federation, call (510) 233-2645. The mailing address is, P.O. Box 2561 Richmond, CA

HOMEGOING CELEBRATIONS

LAM. 3:22-23 *It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.*

Bishop Sherman S. Howard

Jurisdictional Bishop –
Washington DC
Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Bishop Sherman Scott
Howard was born in
Roanoke, Virginia to the late
Mr. Edgar and Mrs. Bertha



Howard. Bishop Howard was a child of considerable gifts and talents. Although a gifted musician, he was called upon to take on a leadership role in his family after his father's untimely death when a young Sherman Howard was only eleven years old. Bishop Howard's spiritual birth took place in Roanoke as a member of the Church Of God In Christ, Number Two under the leadership of his pastor and mentor, the Elder E. I. Coles. He accompanied his pastor on many evangelistic campaigns playing piano as Elder Coles minister the Word of God.

In 1946, he was called into the gospel ministry and shortly thereafter preached his initial message entitled, "Sell Out" in Baltimore, MD. While ending a period of evangelizing with Pastor Coles, Minister Howard was led to stop in the nation's capital, Washington, DC. This was a move that would change his life forever. Shortly after coming to Washington, he became a member of the Temple COGIC under the pastoral leadership of Bishop Samuel Kelsey. In 1948, he was ordained at the hands of Bishop Kelsey.

The young Elder Howard was a very active member of the Temple. He served not only as an associate minister, but also as the accompanist and director of the Radio Choir. He went on to serve as the Jurisdictional President of the Young People Willing Workers, the Vice-National Director of the COGIC Youth Congress Chorus, and Superintendent of District Number Four in the Washington, DC Jurisdiction. Elder Howard was also the first male African American gospel radio announcer in Washington, DC. Because of this, his popularity among those inside and outside of the Church Of God In Christ grew. Even so, he remained faithful to his church and to his pastor.

On Sunday, October 30, 1955, Elder Howard organized the New Bethel COGIC in a small storefront at 1123 S Street in Northwest Washington, DC. While at this location, New Bethel became known for its fervent prayer ministry and the now trademark live radio broadcast services. Because of the growth in membership, it became necessary in May 1963 for the church to relocate to 5714 Georgia Avenue, NW and in 1972, to its present location at 6440 Piney Branch Road, NW.

In his commitment to serve the Lord's people, he was compelled to further his education by taking courses at the Howard University Divinity School. Because of his significant contributions to the work of the ministry and to the cause of Christ, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity Hall College and Seminary.

On February 10, 1998, Dr. Howard was elevated to the Sacred Office of Bishop and on May 23, 1998, he was consecrated and installed as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the Washington, DC Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction by the Former Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens. Bishop Howard was blessed with a most humble nature and an indescribable love for God's house and for God's people. He was a leader who was apt to serve. Because of this unique spirit, he was known throughout the Church Of God In Christ brotherhood as "Mr. Hospitality."

Bishop Howard was called home to be with the Lord December 11, 2004. He leaves to cherish his memory a sister, Josephine Howard; a brother, Lewis Howard, a daughter, Carolyn Tolbert; a son, Clinton Bowman; a son in law, Dr. Herman Tolbert, Jr.; two grandsons, Herman Tolbert III and Christopher Tolbert; an adopted daughter, Norma Brailsford; nieces, Susan Polite and Sheila Henry; nephews, Marvin Holland, Joe Howard and Xavier Howard; other nieces, nephews, and cousins; the New Bethel COGIC family; and a host of friends.

Bishop J.A. Thompson

Jurisdictional Prelate –
Louisiana East Second
Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Bishop Joseph Anthony
Thompson was born in

Modeste, Louisiana, on the
Mississippi River Road between White Castle and about
seven miles from Donaldsonville on Saturday, July 1, 1916.
He was the eldest of nine children born to the union of the
late Mother Annie Anthony Thompson and the late
Willie Thompson, Sr.



Bishop Thompson's early educational training began at
Modeste Elementary School and Donaldsonville High
School. He continued to pursue his education at Delgado
Community College and Xavier and Dominican
Universities in New Orleans, Louisiana.

His early religious training began as a minister in the St.
Phillip Baptist Church of Modeste, Louisiana. He was
licensed as a minister in 1938 and attended Leland
Theological Seminary in Baker, Louisiana where he subse-
quently received his Bachelor of Theology and Doctor of
Divinity.

Upon moving to New Orleans, he met and married the for-
mer Miss Carrie Brown. This union was blessed with one
son, the late Elder David Franklin Thompson, Sr. Ph.D.;
and one daughter, District Missionary Pamela Anne
Thompson Chapman.

It was through his wife that he came in contact with the
Church Of God In Christ and after many visits to her
church, he heard the Word and accepted the way of
Holiness in November 1945. He served as a deacon and
minister at the McCDonoghville COGIC in Gretna until
the Lord spoke to him and called him to the evangelist
field. He and Sister Thompson worked faithfully until the
Lord told him in a vision to return to Gretna and pitch a
tent.

From this humble beginning 59 years ago, the Lord blessed
Bishop Thompson to found and pastor the Weyer Street
COGIC, which eventually became Thompson Temple
COGIC. In addition to Thompson Temple, Bishop
Thompson pastored the Fifth Street COGIC in New Iberia
and the First COGIC in Houma, Louisiana.

He was a true servant of the Lord and faithful worker in the
church. He served as Assistant Chairman and Treasurer of
Louisiana East District No. 2; District Superintendent of
No. 2 South from December 1971 to June 1987;
Chairman, Louisiana East Finance Department; State
Chairman Expeditor, Louisiana East; Secretary, Grievance
Committee; Member, Examination Board, National
Judiciary and 1st Administrative Assistant to Bishop J.O.
Patterson, Interim Prelate, Louisiana East Jurisdiction;
Prelate, Louisiana East Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction;
Founder, J.A. Thompson Scholarship Foundation;
Founder, Boys and Girls of Distinction; and Delegate for
the Board of Bishops to the 2003 Constitutional
Convention of the COGIC. He was founder and president
of the Imperial Life Insurance Company for over twelve
years and president and founder of the Thompson Temple
Day Care Centers for over seventeen years. In 1976, he
founded the J.A. Thompson Real Estate Company.

Bishop Thompson always exemplified the wisdom of a
godly leader and was appointed to the Office of Bishop of
the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Eastern Louisiana
by Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. on May 6, 1987. In
November 1987, he was consecrated to the Bishopric in
Memphis, Tennessee. Bishop Thompson was well thought
of and respected by the Board of Bishops.

Bishop J.A. Thompson went home to be with the Lord on
Monday, January 3, 2005. His parents, Mother Annie
Thompson and Willie Thompson; his son, Dr. David F.
Thompson, Sr., and one brother, Edward C. Thompson,
preceded him in death. His life in Christ and his exem-
plary attributes as husband and father will forever be cher-
ished by the love of his live, his wife, Missionary Carrie
Brown Thompson; his adoring daughter, District
Missionary Pamela Thompson Chapman; his faithful son-
in-law Elder Harry L. Chapman; his attentive grandson,
David Franklin Thompson, Jr.; grand daughter-in-law,
Lydia Walker Thompson; his precious granddaughter,
Dana Rochelle Smith and his pride and joy – his great
grandchildren, John Henry, David III, Faith Christionne,
and Joseph Anthony Thompson, and three brothers Willie
W. Thompson, Jr. Newton D/ Thompson, Sr. and Marcus
G. Thompson, Sr., four sisters E. Rosetta Thompson Diggs,
Evangelist Annie Bell Thompson Mallow, Elnora
Thompson Brown, and Missionary Ethel Lee Thompson
Henderson; one aunt, Mildred Anthony Ambeau,
nephews, nieces, the Thompson Temple Church family,
District II, Louisiana East Second Jurisdiction, other rela-
tives, saints and friends.

Supervisor Mary E. Bennett – Portrait of a Faithful Servant Born June 21, 1938, Mary Eva Howard was the ninth of thirteen children born to Eugene Howard and Martha Virginia Smith (Howard). She departed this life Tuesday, January 11, 2005, at 2:15am of natural causes at Mercy Hospital (Charlotte, NC) after lengthy illnesses from diabetes related complications.

Raised in a Christian home, she was a God-fearing, determined woman with a feisty nature and fiercely loyal spirit. A native of Wadesboro, NC, she attended Anson County Training School. After meeting her future husband and soul mate, Joe David Bennett (at age 5), they married at an early age and were the parents of four children – Terry Daron (deceased), L. Diane, Bobby Mitchell and Joey Gaylan. As a stay-at-home Mother of small children, this young family grew and learned from extensive travel through her husband's Navy career, living on naval bases in Charleston, SC, Norfolk, VA, Philadelphia, PA, Providence, RI and Boston, MA. A strict disciplinarian, she insisted upon excellence, fearlessness, persistence and optimism from her children.

She gave her life to Christ at age 16, after hearing the call to discipleship from the late Bishop J. Howard Sherman, Sr. and began a life of dedicated service and commitment at Greater Faith Temple COGIC (Wadesboro, NC). She participated with the choir, usher board, kitchen, custodial and fundraising committees, and later became Church Clerk until travel with her husband took her away. Although away for many years, she remained active in church wherever she was and insisted that her children be as well. Upon her husband's retirement from the Navy, the family returned to Wadesboro where she resumed active participation in local, district and jurisdictional church activities.

Mother Bennett faithfully served the COGIC in numerous capacities as Church Clerk, Local, District and State Usher Board President, Anniversary Committee Chairperson, Pastor's Aide President, Purity Class President, Sunshine Band President, Evangelist Missionary and District Missionary. As Bishop Sherman "preached out" churches to build the Jurisdiction, Mother Bennett sustained several new and growing congregations as "Shepherd Mother" until a pastor could be appointed. She was often asked to provide organizational and fundraising support for other pastors and ministries within the Jurisdiction.

After totally committed service to Jurisdictional Supervisors, the late Johnnie Mae McCants, Freddie J. Bell and Deola Wells Johnson, Mother Bennett was elevated to the office of Jurisdictional Supervisor in 1979. Mother Bennett served long enough to see the North Carolina –

Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction – Women's Department grow from 25 missionaries to over 200 missionaries and department workers. She was extremely proud and grateful for the support, love and dedication of the women and often referred to them as the "greatest Women's Department in the COGIC." Her career as a Supervisor was enhanced and recognized nationally, when Mother Willie Mae Rivers, (then Circle President) selected her to serve as Secretary of the Supervisor's Circle. She continued to serve in that capacity with Supervisor Rebecca Gorham – Circle #1 President. From that point on, she participated in various other capacities within the International Department of Women.

She was loyal and supportive of Jurisdictional Bishops, J. Howard Sherman, Sr. until his death in 1996 and C. Ellis Anderson Sr. (1996-time of death) and vigorously encouraged the Women to do so as well. Mother Bennett was lovingly referred to as a "preacher's friend." She was "old school COGIC", always encouraged others to do more than what they had done before and never taking "no" for an answer from anyone.

Mother Bennett was one of the founding members of Pentecostal Temple COGIC (1973) with Bishop J. Howard Sherman, now (re-dedicated) Sherman Memorial COGIC – Pastor – Bishop C.E. Anderson, Sr. Under the pastorate of Bishop C. Ellis Anderson, she served Sherman Memorial COGIC as: Member – Trustee Board, President – Missionary Circle, Member – Pastor's Aide, Tribe Leader. Member – Mother's Board, Co-chair – Pastor's Anniversary Committee, Co-Chair – Church Anniversary Committee and Member – Missions Department and anywhere else she was needed.

She was active in the Charlotte community through Crisis Assistance Ministries, Second Harvest Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Battered Women's Shelter, En's Homeless Shelter, and Board Member – Parkwood Avenue Corridor Community Development Corporation.

Mother Bennett leaves to celebrate her life and memory, one daughter, L. Diane Bennett (Charlotte, NC), two sons: Bobby Mitchell Bennett (Charlotte, NC) and Master Chief Joey Gaylan (Audrey) Bennett, Sr. (Norfolk, VA); daughter-in-law, Earlene Howard (widow of deceased son, Terry Daron) (Dallas, NC), one granddaughter, four grandsons, three great-grandchildren, one brother, eight sisters; two aunts, a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, cousins, friends, admirers and Church colleagues to specifically include Sherman Memorial COGIC, Greater Faith Temple COGIC, Greater Metrolina District, NC Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, and the COGIC International Women's Department who lives have been enriched by her life. She was preceded in death by her son,

Terry and loving husband of 49 years, Joe David Bennett (8 months prior).

Mother Lelia Barbara Mason Byas –

A Woman of Good Works

Top officials of the COGIC as well as friends gathered with the family of Mother Byas to honor her memory at the December Homegoing held at the Pentecostal Temple COGIC in Memphis, Tennessee. The eulogist, COGIC Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, stated that "She was a woman of good works", and that Mother Byas was a pioneer in the Ministry of Music for COGIC. The Presiding Bishop recalled how Mother Byas organized the first choir at the Founder's Church, Temple Church of God In Christ, which was established by Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, her natural father. Her sister, Julia Mason Atkins served as director of that choir, which has the distinction of being the first organized choir in the Church Of God In Christ. During her remarks before reading the Resolution from the International Department of Women, General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers stated that "I did not come because Mother Byas died, I came because she lived."

Other officials such as COGIC Chief of Staff Bishop Jerry Maynard, General Secretary Elder A.Z. Hall and others were in attendance. Said Bishop Lemeul Thuston of Kansas East, "The entire Church Of God In Christ owes a debt of gratitude to this family. I called her 'Mother Balance' because with all of her anointing and power she knew how to properly balance her life."

Lelia Barbara Mason Byas was born October 5, 1910 in Lexington, MS, the third child of her parents, the late Charles Harrison Mason and Lelia Washington Mason. Her father later was called to ministry and under God's direction founded the Church of God In Christ. Bishop C.H. Mason served the church as Senior Bishop until his death.

Tiny (as she was affectionately called) married the late Earl Byas and moved to Detroit, MI. Four children were born to this union. In Detroit, Tiny was a member of Bailey Temple COGIC, pastored by the late Bishop J.S. Bailey. Tiny had a big heart and loved to cook health foods for family and friends. With her friend, Sister Bracey, she was instrumental in assisting her sister, Alice, in the care of her brother-in-law the late Bishop W. Hansel Amos of the C.M.E. Church. During the Annual National Convocation of the COGIC, she prepared health foods for the thousand of Saints attending the Convocation.

After her four children were grown, she moved back to

Memphis and became a member of Pentecostal Temple COGIC where her brother-in-law, the late Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., was pastor. At Pentecostal Temple she became an Evangelist Missionary; was involved in many ministries of the church, such as President of the Pentecostal Temple Bible Band, in the District as the Pentecostal District Bible Band President and was loved and appreciated by all because of her Christ-like spirit. She was invited by many pastors to speak to their congregations; especially on the history of the COGIC.

After she became ill, her daughter, Earlynn McDowell, took her mother to live with her family in Claremont, CA. It was only after Earlynn promised to return her remains to Memphis should Mother Byas be called home by our Lord while still in California that she agreed to go to there.

Her siblings, Charles, Jr., Alice, Israel, Deborah and Arthur predeceased Mother Byas. Two of her fond children, Barbara and Charles Earl, also predeceased her. And now, on December 20, 2004, the Savior called our beloved mother, sister and friends, Lelia Barbara Mason Byas (Tiny) to the divine rewarded promised all the Saints who believe in Jesus Christ and await His return. Mother Byas leaves to mourn her passing two children, Earlynn McDowell of Claremont, CA and Fredrick Byas of Detroit, MI; two sisters; Julia Atkins and Ruth Lewis, of Memphis; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pastor and Founder Jesse Emory Copeland

Administrative Assistant Jesse E. Copeland, the Founder and Pastor of the Progressive COGIC, was born in Troupe, Texas on September 27, 1902, to Sally and Sam Copeland. He was the second youngest of 16 children.

After the family moved to Dallas, Texas he received the Lord as his personal Savior in 1914, where he lived for approximately 20 years. He married Georgia Daniels in 1926. To this union was born one daughter: Mary Alice Copeland (now Lewis). He was ordained for the ministry of God's Word on July 20, 1933.

In 1944, Pastor Copeland moved to Los Angeles, California, and served as a local minister at Emmanuel COGIC, under the pastorate of Bishop Samuel Crouch. While in Los Angeles, he met and married Annie May Roberson. In 1949, Pastor Copeland and his bride came to Sacramento, and using his own funds, he purchased the property at 1969 Burnett Way from the New Hope Baptist Church. He founded the Progressive COGIC with the membership consisting of the families of Mother Steele, Mother Cooper, and Mother Cousins. He subsequently

deeded the property to the church. The first service was held in the winter of that same year (1949). The first instrument in the church was a donated piano. The first deacon was Brother Burdicks; first church mother was Mother Cooper; first choir director was Brother Sammy Irving; first minister was Minister Cousins and the first musician was Brother Gill. God has been faithful to multiply and increase since those days. The weekly and Sunday Services were held in what is known today as the kitchen and dining area.

In 1950, Hosea Houston was hired to build the portion of the church in which services were held until the new edifice at 2251 Meadowview was completed. Pastor Joe Morrison, from the Sacramento Revival Center, was in attendance at the church's opening service. By this time, the membership had increased to twenty. With the death of Pastor Copeland's wife, Mother Annie May Copeland, in 1960, the church did not cease to increase in congregational growth.

Pastor Copeland received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Saint Justine's Theological Seminary. Pastor Copeland was honored on January 24, 1959, with the position of Superintendent of the Sacramento District. He continued to maintain that position until his death. Pastor Copeland was the 1st Administrative Assistant to Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Jurisdiction Prelate of California Northwest, which consists of more than 120 churches, spanning from Redding to the beautiful breathtaking peninsula of Monterey, and as far south as Bakersfield.

In 1990, the J E. Copeland Scholarship Fund was founded and so named in his honor. Each year, scholarships are given to college bound young people. On February 15, 1991, Sacramento Mayor Ann Rudin honored Pastor Copeland with a Proclamation of Recognition for community services. On June 10, 1991, Pastor Copeland was honored with the "Distinguished District Award of California Northwest Jurisdiction. On December 15, 1992, Pastor Copeland was honored with a Resolution of Recognition from the Senate Rules Committee of California. On June 26, 1999, Pastor Copeland was honored with the California Northwest Outstanding Pastor of the Year Award. Pastor Copeland has received honors and recognition both locally and nationally that are too numerous to list.

In 1983, Pastor Copeland met and married Ruth Thompson. Obeying the voice of the Lord, Pastor Copeland stopped accepting the tithes and began putting them back into the church. Rapidly, the church began to grow, which made it necessary to get a larger edifice. With the help of Brother John Tatum the property at 2251 Meadowview Road was located. Within a year of the pur-

chase, the property was paid off. After selecting a contractor, the building of the new church began.

In 1992, the new edifice at 2251 Meadowview was completed. The congregation continued to grow by leaps and bounds under the leadership of "Our good Shepherd". In 1998 he was honored in the Sacramento Bee, Gospel Journal, and the Sacramento Observer. In 1999 the Progressive COGIC celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pastor Copeland held the distinction of being the oldest pastor in the Sacramento area.

In 2002 Pastor Copeland celebrated his 100th birthday, surrounded by his family and congregation as well as many friends.

Our beloved Pastor was called home to be with the Lord after a lifetime of dedication and service the morning of December 18, 2004. Left to mourn Dad is his daughter - Mary A. Lewis, 2 grandchildren - Karen Palmer, Barbara Lewis; 4 great-grandchildren, 16 great-great-grand children, the Progressive family, and a host of friends.

Happy 44th Birthday Dr. Frank Anthone White

Two of the famed Clark Sisters Headline Birthday Honor Concert

Freeport, NY – Dr. Frank Anthone White, the senior pastor of King's Chapel Church Of God In Christ and co-pastor of Zion Cathedral Church Of God In Christ, celebrated his 44th birthday on Saturday, February 26. In fact, at 7:30 p.m. on that special Oh Happy "Birth" Day, Zion Cathedral's sanctuary was the scene of a musical birthday celebration. Dorinda Clark-Cole, Karen Clark-Sheard, and Kiera "KiKi Sheard were some of the scheduled

headliners for the concert honoring Dr. White; who is a prolific songwriter, producer, businessman and most of all preacher extraordinaire.

In talking with The Whole Truth about his birthday concert celebration, Dr. White said he was overjoyed that his "friends" were on hand to help him celebrate. "Their (Dorinda and Karen) mother, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, made a great impression on me early in my music career, as she did the gospel music industry," Dr. White observed. "Then of course for little KiKi to come...she has the number one album on the gospel charts right now and represents another generation of great singers."

In addition, Dr. White noted that this was the first concert inside the new sanctuary at Zion Cathedral. He worked with his father, Bishop Frank O. White, to recently build a \$4 million state-of-the-art cathedral in Freeport. Bishop White is the National Financial Secretary for the Church Of God In Christ, and serves as the Jurisdictional Prelate



Dr. Frank Anthone White

for New York Eastern Third. Much like the Clark Sisters, Dr. White began working in the music ministry at an early age. This child protégé was the Minister of Music at Zion Cathedral at the age of 13. Two years later, this same love for music compelled him to open Anthone's School of Music. It was here that Dr. White imparted musical principals to the next generation of musicians – training their ear and instructing them on music theory, along with

other aspects of the discipline. Many of the graduates have gone on to become evangelists, pastors, preachers and recording artists.

Today, Dr. White serves as President and CEO of Music Qwest, Incorporated, a Gospel record label and production company. He serves the National Church as a member of the Board of Trustees and as a Vice President in the Music Department.

Still, this prolific orator and proclaimer of the Gospel is mostly known for his dynamic preaching style and awesome anointing. In fact his profound sermon, Worship Wins Wars, was definitely one of the preaching highlights at the 97th International Holy Convocation.

So, Dr. Frank Anthone White, for all that you do! This Whole Truth Happy 44th Birthday Salute is for you. Many happy returns!

J.O. PATTERSON SR. FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop



DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL

*Dr. Regina S. Jones
Dr. Lafayette Price
Dr. Constance Price
Judge Laleshia Walker-Alford
Attorney BJ Warren
Professor Iris Stevenson
Mrs. Winifred Morris*

ATM (Anointed to Mentor)

*Program Director:
Marye Mitchell-Bell*

FINE ARTS ASSISTANTS:

*Douglas Wilkins
Dolores Diggs
Jacky Clark-Chisholm
Roger L. Jones II
Christopher B. Thomas*

SPECIAL NOTICE

Attention: Any member of the Church Of God In Christ
between the ages of 16 and 26

You may be eligible for a fine arts scholarship if you are currently enrolled in high school, college or a university in some category of performing art, including: music—vocal or instrumental; drama—speech, communication, theater, dramatic or oral interpretation; visual art—painting, sculpture, crafts, drawing, or a related field.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Sara Jordan Powell

Scholarship Candidate Profile/Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Applicant's Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of Pastor: _____ Juris. Bishop: _____

Name of Juris. Supervisor: _____

High School (check one:) ☐ freshman ☐ sophomore ☐ junior ☐ senior

College (check one:) ☐ freshman ☐ sophomore ☐ junior ☐ senior

Performance category (check one:) ☐ music ☐ drama ☐ visual arts

Please mail this application for further details to: Sara Jordan Powell
7122 South Sheridan Road
PMB #133
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

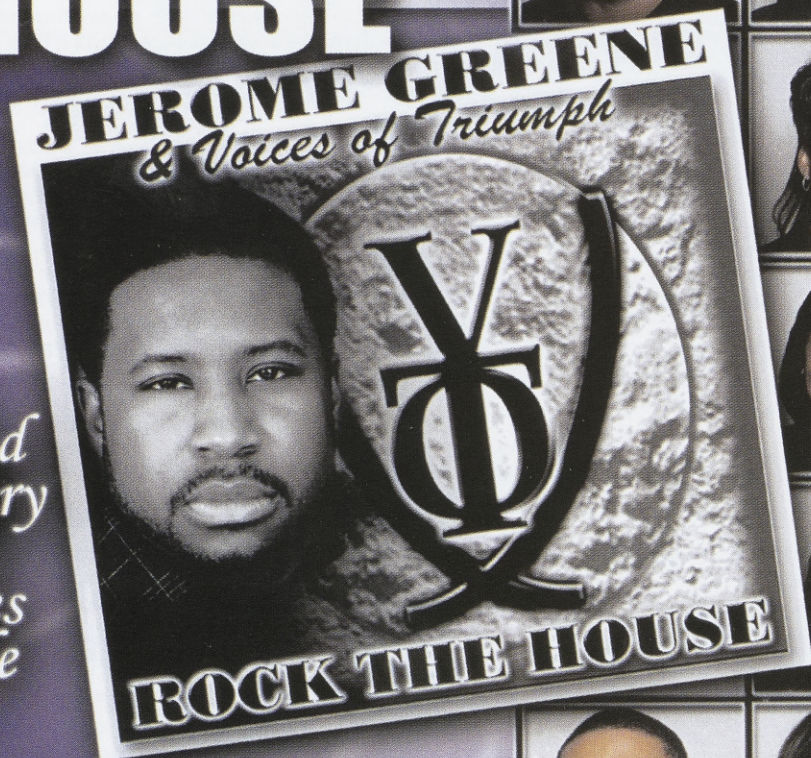
Our mission is to offer financial assistance to deserving students who are seeking to develop their skills in the arts and are correlating those skills and abilities with spiritual growth and development in our church.

Scholarships will be awarded during the November Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee, at an annual dinner in the Peabody Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

ONLY HOLY RECORDS PRESENTS ...

**JEROME GREENE
& VOICES OF TRIUMPH**

ROCK THE HOUSE



*A
Blessed
Ministry
that
Blesses
People*

Featuring Singles
**Let's Go Home, You're the One
If God Said It, Awesome God
& No Weapon**

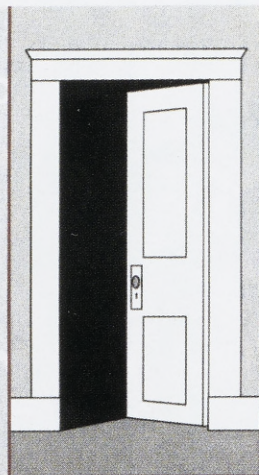


From Tragedy to Triumph
...The Testimony

only holy
records®

www.votministries.com

Turn On
The Light
Before
Entering
Into Marriage.



A MARRIAGE PREREQUISITE

by
LOUISE
BLUE-WALKER

Price: \$10.00

You say that you don't know how a person will treat you until after the wedding. Your defense is he was not what he pretended to be. You tell everyone that she was not what she initially presented herself as. Isn't it true that you became so enchanted with the image of marriage that you made a poor choice! Isn't it true that you gave no serious attention to his or her character before marriage! Isn't it also true that you did not consult God about marrying him or her!

A Marriage Prerequisite supports that a marriage is a contract relationship. Therefore a contract relationship conversation needs to precede the contract relationship ceremony. Issues that merit discussion prior to marriage are: When and how many children do you plan to have? How will you handle bank accounts, and payments of bills? What are your goals for the marriage? How should a marriage partner handle an attraction they may have for someone else? What is required of the husband's position as head of the household? Conversing about those types of issues before marriage is the threshold to a healthy marriage relationship.

Louise Blue-Walker believes that you are not in the dark or helpless to a fake or pretend persona an individual maybe presenting. God made your spirit so powerful, that it is able to look into the spirit of another, and see what they really are. The choice is yours.

Available at COGIC Bookstore
And

Bountiful Blessings COGIC Bookstore

Marriage Seminars Available Upon Request

(901) 274-2455

186 LeMaster Street
Memphis, TN 38104

LOUISE BLUE-WALKER is an author and an inspirational speaker. She has an Associate's Degree in Family Services. Her B.S. is in Sociology, with a concentration on human behavior. She has started on her Master's in Psychology at The University of Memphis.

Louise became a born again believer when she was nineteen years old. She has been a member of Temple COGIC since 1982. She attends Temple Church with her husband, Jerald, their daughter, Alison, and twins, Marley and Jerald Allen. Louise and Jerald have been husband and wife for fifteen years.

Over 1 MILLION Satisfied Users



GROW STRONGER. THICKER. LONGER HAIR

IN FOUR EASY STEPS!

STEP 1:

Shampoo your hair with **SUPER ROOTS CONDITIONING SHAMPOO**. This shampoo completely cleanses hair from the roots up. Be sure to shampoo your hair and rinse thoroughly 3 times.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Shampoo your hair once a week. This makes sure that your hair and scalp are clean. Rinse well to remove all residue and build-up from hair and scalp.

STEP 2:

SUPER ROOTS TREATMENT

Massage treatment into scalp 3-5 times per week. A simple massage 3-5 times per week promotes hair growth and a healthy scalp. Massage well.

SUPER QUIK GROW TREATMENT

(Same results as Super Roots, but recommended for color treated hair.)

STEP 3:

After you have treated your hair, it is time to condition. Please choose your conditioner.

4 ROOTS UP MOISTURIZER HERBAL OIL CONDITIONER.

For best result, apply conditioner to hair and scalp 3 to 5 times per week. Massage well into hair. Comb hair into desired style.

STOP HAIR LOSS 24-7 LEAVE IN CONDITIONER.

(Same results as 4 Roots Up Moisturizer, but recommended for color treated hair.)

STEP 4:

Apply **SUPER ROOTS HOT OIL TREATMENT**.

For best results, massage the Hot Oil into hair and scalp every other day. Massage well. Comb hair into desired style.



AS SEEN ON
TV

**100% NATURAL • 100% HERBAL
100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEED**

NOW ONLY

ANY 4 FOR \$39.99

**FAMILY SPECIAL
ANY 12 FOR \$100.00**

FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING

Send Check or Money Order



**ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
CHECK OR MONEY ORDER**

**FOR THE DISTRIBUTOR NEAREST YOU
1-800-450-6664**

OMNI WORLD CORPORATION "An Organization Founded On Faith"
P.O. Box 2151 Augusta, GA 30903 (800) 450-6664



DEBIT

5412 3456 7890 1234

GOOD THRU 00/00

BISHOP G.E. PATTERSON



**THE COGIC VISA / DEBIT CARD
... IS IT IN YOUR WALLET?**